

1-1-2004

Furman Magazine. Volume 46, Issue 4 - Full Issue

Furman University

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Recommended Citation

University, Furman (2004) "Furman Magazine. Volume 46, Issue 4 - Full Issue," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 46 : Iss. 4 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol46/iss4/1>

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Furman

WINTER 2004



GORDON W. BLACKWELL:
A TRIBUTE

FURMAN MAGAZINE
Winter 2004

VOLUME 46, NUMBER 4

Furman magazine is published quarterly for alumni
and friends by the Office of Marketing and Public
Relations, Furman University, Greenville, S.C. 29613.

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Furman

Winter 2004

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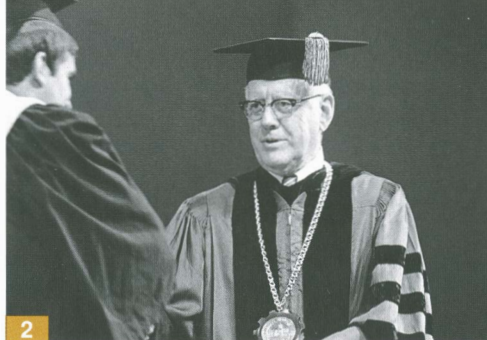
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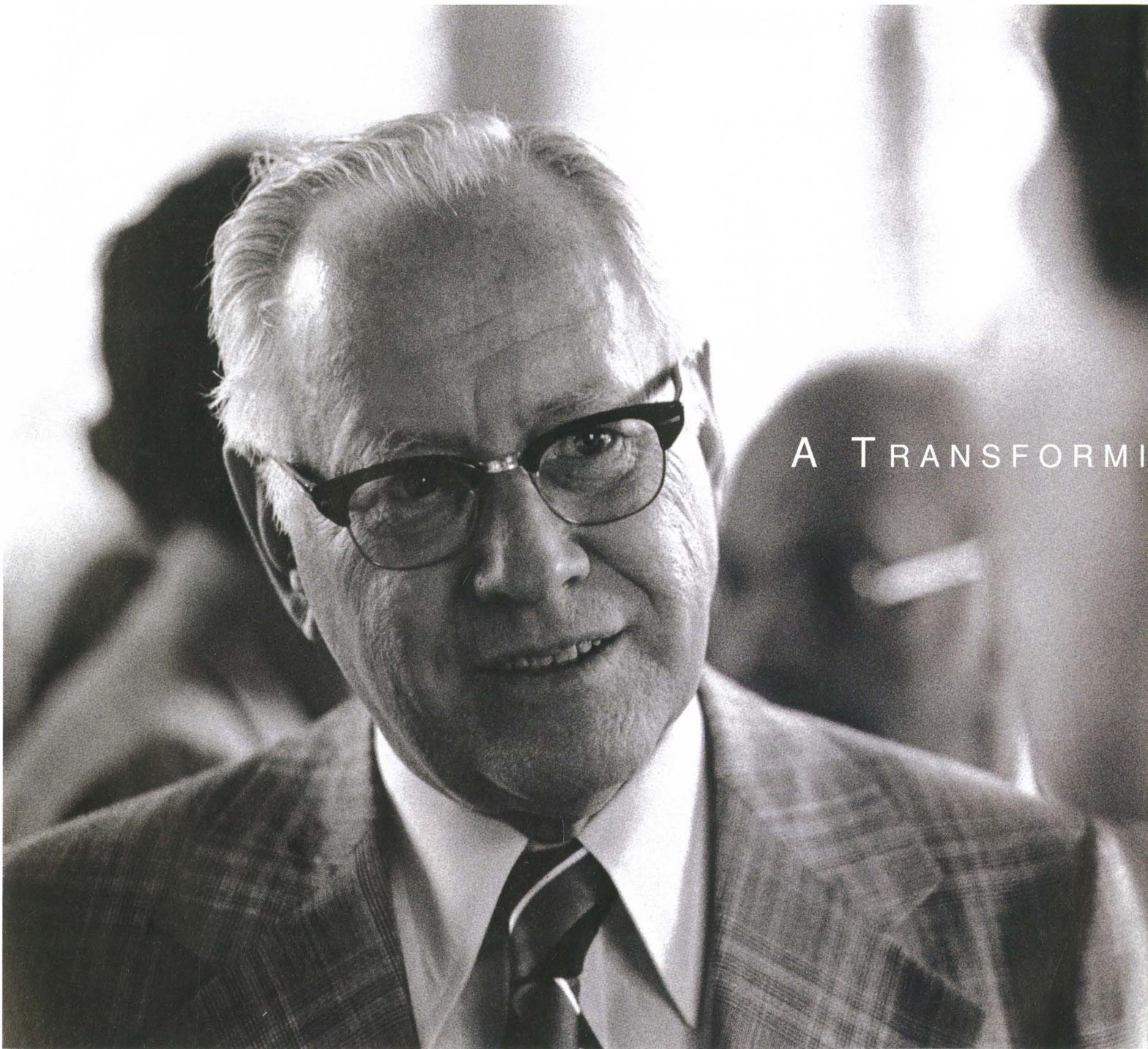


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Printed on partially recycled paper

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Gordon W. Blackwell at Commencement 1976, his last Commencement as president. Photo by Alan Whitman



A TRANSFORMI

NG VISION

Furman's emergence
as an institution
of national repute
owes much to the
progressive leadership
of Gordon W. Blackwell.

BY JIM STEWART



Few have done as much to shape the character of Furman University and to propel it to a position of national stature as Gordon Williams Blackwell.

As president of the university from 1965 to 1976, he forged the vision for what Furman would become. John E. Johns, Blackwell's successor, once said, "It was Furman's good fortune that Gordon arrived at a crucial time. In the mid-sixties, Furman had a choice: It could either move forward, continuing the impetus created by the move to the new campus, or it could become complacent about its sparkling new facilities and its enrollment of more than 1,600 students.

"Gordon Blackwell chose to move forward."

Not satisfied for Furman to remain simply a good regional college, Blackwell challenged everyone associated with the school — faculty, administration, staff, students, alumni and trustees — to pursue "greatness by national standards." And through the achievements of his administration, he demonstrated that the vision could indeed become reality.

While shepherding Furman through the turbulence of the late 1960s and the financial struggles of the early 1970s, Blackwell reorganized and strengthened the university's administrative structure and increased both the size and quality of the faculty. During his tenure Furman introduced study abroad opportunities and adopted a new curriculum and academic calendar — the innovative three-term, 3-2-3 system — that remain in place today.

Under his watch, Furman was awarded a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, a long cherished goal, and established the Collegiate Educational Service Corps, the award-winning student volunteer organization that has become a signature Furman program. Five major buildings were completed, including the Herman W. Lay Physical Activities Center and the Homozel Mickel Daniel Music Building.

When Gordon Blackwell died January 26 at the age of 92, the Furman family and the surrounding community mourned his passing but celebrated the life of a scholar, author and educator who made lasting contributions to the community, the region and the cause of higher education. In recounting his achievements and lauding his stewardship of Furman during a crucial era in the university's history, they also emphasized the intangible qualities that endeared him to so many: his integrity, friendliness, strength of character, steady hand, compassion, humility and generous spirit.

Adrienne Whitely Radulovic '73, an attorney in Atlanta who served as student body president her senior year, described Blackwell as "a gentleman scholar with a terrific sense of humor, a sweetheart of a fellow, an athlete, a commander in chief, someone possessed of unlimited interest in people and all aspects of life. One might disagree with his point of view on occasion, but one needed not fear expressing an alternative idea to him. . . . He was invariably attentive, courteous and thoughtful . . . a treasure of a human being."

GORDON BLACKWELL'S LONG relationship with Furman began with his father, Benjamin Lewis Blackwell, a Furman graduate who obtained a divinity degree from Colgate and became a Baptist minister. Gordon, who was born in Timmonsville, S.C., in 1911, grew up in the Spartanburg area and enrolled at Furman in 1928.

His leadership skills quickly became apparent. Captain and No. 1 player on the tennis team for three years, he was also editor of the literary magazine, the *Echo*, and president of several student organizations. Graduating *summa cum laude* in 1932, he was selected to Quaternion, the select men's honorary society, and received the Bradshaw-Feaster Medal for General Excellence.

Blackwell once said that his strongest influences at Furman were two legendary professors, Alfred Taylor Odell (English) and Delbert H. Gilpatrick (history). Odell helped him improve his writing and modeled such traits as openness, courage and humor. Gilpatrick, Blackwell said, “taught me how to engage in critical thinking and to approach issues in a rational manner.”

Choosing to pursue an academic career, Blackwell earned a master’s degree from the University of North Carolina and a Ph.D. from Harvard. He returned to Furman in 1937 and served as professor and chair in the sociology department for four years before joining the faculty at North Carolina.

During his early years as a sociologist, Blackwell worked on a number of federal and academic projects that required extensive research and one-on-one interviews. He would later apply the skills he honed

staunchly defended the students’ right to engage in peaceful protest and served as a mediator in negotiations that ultimately led to integration within the next year.

In 1960, Blackwell moved on to the presidency of Florida State, where a similar situation soon occurred: Florida State students joined their peers from Florida A&M in protesting discrimination in restaurants. Again, Blackwell’s mediation skills helped prevent violence and eventually led to peaceful integration.

His years at Florida State were also marked by great progress, as enrollment increased from 9,000 to 12,000 and the university’s budget nearly doubled. But when John Plyler announced his plans to retire from Furman in 1964 and Blackwell was approached about the opening, he found the idea of moving from a large state university to a small liberal arts college appealing.

without regard to race. Opposition from the Baptist convention nearly caused the trustees to waver in their resolve, but thanks to Blackwell’s determined stance and an impassioned plea from academic dean Francis Bonner, the board held firm.

On February 2, 1965, Gordon W. Blackwell took office as president of Furman — the same day that Joe Vaughn enrolled as the university’s first African-American undergraduate. Furman became the first private college in South Carolina to integrate.

AS CURRENT FURMAN PRESIDENT

David Shi said at Blackwell’s memorial service January 30, “The university Dr. Blackwell inherited had been positioned for prominence by John Plyler, and Gordon seized full advantage of the opportunities enabled by his remarkable predecessor.” There is no question that Furman’s move to its present campus, engineered by Plyler, served as the catalyst for the university’s transformation from a primarily regional institution to one of the leading liberal arts colleges in the country.

The facts and figures demonstrate that Blackwell was the right man to lead Furman on its new course. Aside from the advancements in academic and student programming, enrollment increased by 58 percent and endowment by 147 percent. The full-time faculty doubled in size; grant support grew by 171 percent and student financial aid by 291 percent.

But his legacy is much more pervasive than mere statistics can attest. His openness in confronting controversial issues and willingness to share and discuss his concerns with the university’s constituencies were hallmarks of his administration. As he said at the time of his retirement, “While it is probably easier to administer in a much less open manner, I believe that decisions will be better and the institution as a whole will benefit through a policy of openness.”

Although Blackwell championed Furman’s status as a church-related college, he was a forceful advocate for academic freedom and made it known that, in his mind, the university’s role should be “educational, not evangelical.” At his inauguration in April 1965, he said, “Baptists, no less than others, deserve higher education which is characterized by academic excellence. I believe this kind of education thrives best in an atmosphere which is permeated by Christian influences. But Furman University’s function as a liberal arts college should never be confused with that of a seminary or a church. A clear division of responsibilities among us is essential.”

In the late 1960s, during a period of student unrest, Blackwell maintained open lines of communication with Furman’s “radicals,” even when they disagreed about the proper course for the university. The students who led protests about such issues



during these projects — talking, listening, analyzing and absorbing all sides of an issue — to his administrative style.

After two years with the Office of Civilian Defense during World War II, he returned to the sociology department at North Carolina and eventually was named a Kenan Professor, the most prestigious rank bestowed by the university. In 1957 he became chancellor of the Woman’s College of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a position he held for three and one-half years.

Under Blackwell’s direction the Woman’s College instituted programs in nursing education and medical technology and launched its first Ph.D. program. During the same period the Greensboro community experienced the nation’s first lunch-counter sit-ins by college students. At one point three students from the Woman’s College joined African-Americans from North Carolina A&T in sit-ins that threatened to spark race riots in the city. Blackwell

“Basically it was a decision to spend the rest of my career seeing what I could do leading in a good liberal arts college under church auspices,” he told *Furman Magazine* in 1976. “I felt that such a situation could offer a kind of quality education with emphasis upon the individual, which is difficult in a large university. I knew that Furman was a very good college on a beautiful new campus. The idea of being a part of its next era of development challenged me.

“I know that ministers feel a call to a particular church. I suppose in some way I also felt a call to return to Furman.”

Before he would assume the presidency of his alma mater, however, Blackwell insisted that the university integrate its student body — a position that was not popular with the majority of South Carolina Baptists. But Furman’s board of trustees, chaired by J. Wilbert Wood, agreed and revised the university’s recruitment policy to allow admission of all qualified students

as compulsory chapel and a controversial speaker policy have, through the years, commented admiringly about Blackwell's willingness to hear them out. Even more telling, though, was that despite frequent criticism from those both on campus and off who were outraged by the students' behavior, Blackwell passionately and consistently defended their right to dissent.

Students always had priority on the Blackwell schedule. He frequently met with student leaders to discuss campus issues, and his informal "fireside chats" served as freewheeling forums in which students could fire away with questions and comments. He and his wife, Elizabeth, opened their home to student groups on many occasions. The Blackwells would quickly put everyone at ease with their cheerful nature, remarkable ability to remember names and details about students' lives, and their obvious enjoyment of each other.

Blackwell also knew that symbolic actions could make powerful statements. In the mid-1960s, after years of battling with the South Carolina Baptist Convention about the propriety of dancing, Furman held its first officially sanctioned dance on campus. No doubt Blackwell shocked a significant portion of Baptists — and impressed Furman students — when he and Lib were the first couple to hit the dance floor. Betty Alverson, longtime director of the student center, mentioned the incident in her remarks at the memorial service, recalling how *The Greenville News'* report stated that "The Furman president danced, fire licking at his feet." Later, she said, Blackwell told her, "It was a lot of fun — and I didn't even feel singed."

In short, through his words and deeds, he worked to eliminate any perceived barrier between students and administration. For confirmation, consult the comments submitted to the Furman Web site shortly after his death (www.furman.edu/blackwell). Note how many people focused not so much on the way he ran the university but on how he made them feel, and how he often went out of his way to ensure that they were treated fairly — and received the best that Furman had to offer.

After retiring from Furman in 1976, Blackwell remained active as a member of corporate and civic boards and particularly as a consultant to colleges, foundations and educational commissions. He and Lib shared many good times with friends and family — four children and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren — until her death in 2000. In late 2001 he married Jean Hollingsworth, with whom he also enjoyed much happiness.

THERE IS LITTLE QUESTION THAT today's Furman — nationally recognized for its beauty, academic strength and engaged learning programs — would not have been possible without the inspired

THE GENUINE COLLEGE

Gordon Blackwell was a gifted writer who published more than 50 articles and six books. This excerpt from "The True Measure of Growth," his convocation address at Furman on September 22, 1970, provides a glimpse of his vision for higher education and of an ideal that applies just as much to Furman today as it did during his presidency.

The college which is experiencing true growth has an exciting faculty of men and women to whom teaching the young and seeking knowledge are the most important activities and goals in life. Such a college attracts and holds really gifted students, who go on to become society's leaders and bring renown to its name; it possesses the resources that allow it to be truly distinguished in the richness and comprehensiveness of its program.

A great college, then, one that is experiencing these kinds of inner growth, is a cluster of tough-minded albeit humane and talented teachers, gifted students and demanding, high-level academic programs. It develops leaders in many walks of life. Such a college is hard to get into, harder to stay in, and hardest of all to leave in possession of a degree. It surrounds the student with every sort of intellectual challenge. It has a level of expectation that is constantly so high that it can be achieved only with great effort. It is made up of many and various worlds — of art, of science, of letters. Its concerns are as broad as human life itself.

In some ways, such a college provides little in the way of comfort either to those who call her alma mater or to society in general. It turns up disturbing facts and challenging ideas. It breeds unpopular attitudes. It is filled with people who express many points of view; yet as an institution it has no politics. In short, a genuine college demonstrates the free play of the mind — of many minds — and such intellectual fertility and vitality are always disturbing to many.

An important measure of growth for Furman is the degree to which we strive to increase intellectual curiosity, the ability of minds, and the sensitivity of human hearts, transmitting an eagerness to enrich the lives of young and old alike. This we do by spreading a magnificent table of cultural and intellectual possibilities before the student.

As Furman grows . . . we should be as one in our determination to build the inner edifice which will vitalize that growth. The balance which we can achieve between the outward and inward symbols of our quality, as well as the extent to which we can achieve a degree of community within the college, will be significant factors in the true measure of our growth.

leadership of Gordon Blackwell. In David Shi's words, "Whatever the issue, whatever the project, Gordon Blackwell insisted that the university adopt academic excellence as its standard.

"Excellence by national standards is a demanding goal; it is not for the timid or the parochial. It requires intense commitment and concentration, difficult decisions and substantial new resources. As Dr. Blackwell once declared, 'Excellence in education is expensive. The only thing more costly is poor education.'

"Over the years, President Blackwell's academic stature and passion for liberal learning led numerous colleges to award him honorary degrees and prompted national organizations to invite him to join their boards. Yet it was Furman that always remained the focus of his attention, service and loyalty.

"This university proudly bears the stamp of Dr. Blackwell's exceptional accomplishments and pristine character.

He personified the best of Furman. He was an eloquent, learned and inspiring leader who helped elevate our sense of what Furman could become.

"Our responsibility is to help the university realize that potential." ●

Gordon Blackwell is survived by his wife, Jean Hollingsworth Blackwell; two sons, Gordon L. Blackwell '60 and his wife, Cecilia Watson Blackwell '62, and Randolph W. Blackwell '63; two daughters and sons-in-law, Blair Blackwell Cooper (M.A. '73) and her husband, Pete, and Amelia Blackwell Yarborough and her husband, Dan; 12 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Memorials: Furman University Library Atrium (named for Gordon and Elizabeth Blackwell) or the Blackwell-Rice Scholarship Program, Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Hwy., Greenville, S.C. 29613.



Opus 121

FURMAN PREPARES FOR THE GRAND UNVEILING OF THE HARTNESS ORGAN.

The installation process began last July 7, when Opus 121 — all 16 tons and 3,000 pieces — arrived on the Furman campus after a 1,000-mile trip from Gloucester, Mass.

Over the next few weeks, specially trained workers gathered in the Charles Ezra Daniel Memorial Chapel to assemble the assorted parts into a beautiful, majestic whole. When they had finished, the world had its first look at the Hartness Organ — Opus 121 from C.B. Fisk, Inc. The organ is a gift from trustee emeritus Thomas S. Hartness and his wife, the late Edna Gladden Hartness, in honor of Bobby Hartness and Becky Berry Hartness.

But putting the pieces in place was just the opening phase of the project. In the succeeding months, a rotating group of skilled artisans has taken painstaking care in “voicing” — setting the volume, tone color and intensity — each of the organ’s 2,930 pipes. Their work is designed to ensure that all elements of the instrument fit together in perfect harmony.

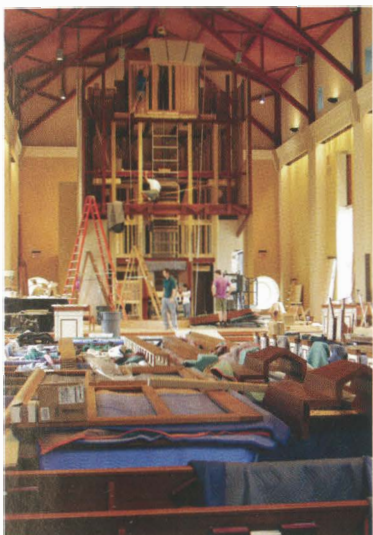
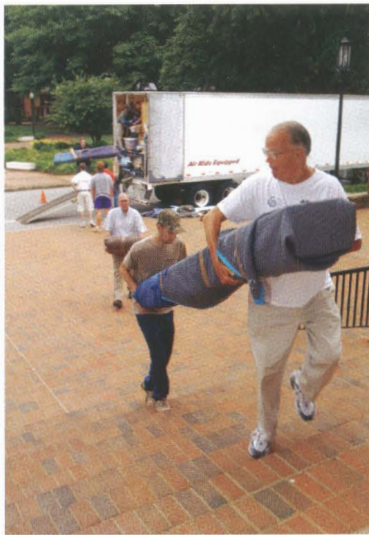
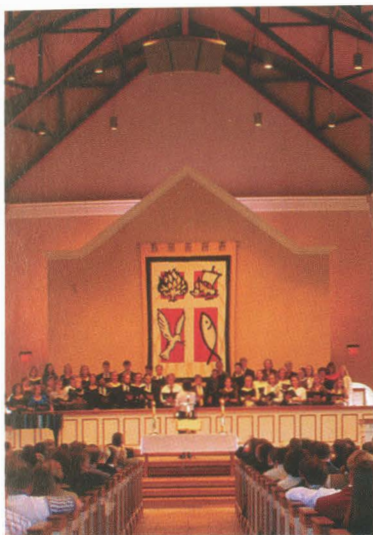
Now that the voicing is virtually complete, Furman and the Greenville community are poised to hear the glorious sounds that have long been promised. Says Charles Tompkins, university organist, “This instrument can whisper just as easily as it can roar.”

On April 18, Tompkins will have the honor of presenting the dedicatory recital for the Hartness Organ. The recital will mark the debut of the organ and the formal completion of the chapel, which had awaited the arrival of its final component since it opened in 1996. And it will represent the beginning of a new era both for worship and for the music program at Furman, one that offers exciting new possibilities for instruction, performance and spiritual enrichment.

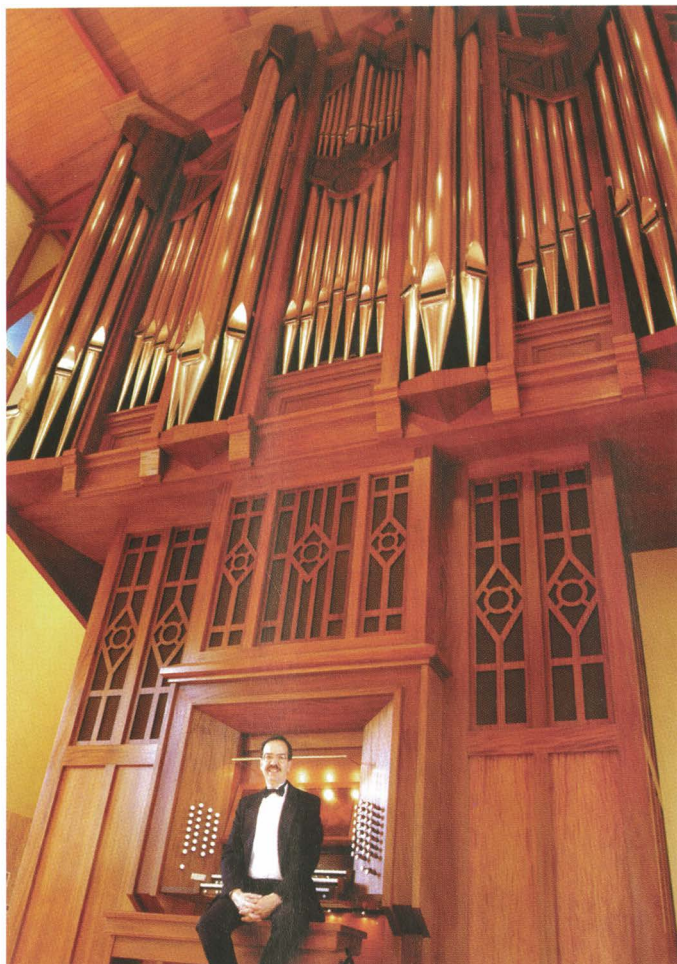
During the forthcoming year, Furman will celebrate the Hartness Organ with a series of recitals featuring Tompkins, a nationally renowned organist, and such other talented guest artists as Olivier Latry, organist at La Cathédrale de Notre Dame in Paris, France; David Higgs, chair of the organ department at Eastman School of Music; and Edie Johnson '96, organist at St. Paul’s Episcopal in Indianapolis. ●

— Jim Stewart

The following pages provide a photographic record of the organ’s installation, some basic information about the instrument, and the schedule for the dedicatory series.



Previous page: The organ provides a magnificent backdrop at the Ceremony of Lessons and Carols, held in December. Above: The sanctuary before its new look; students, alumni and friends volunteered to serve as "movers" when the organ's assorted parts arrived in early July; the organ's finely crafted exterior was essentially in place by late summer, but the voicing of the 2,930 pipes consumed many more months. Opposite: Professor of music Charles Tompkins, university organist, is thrilled to have such a busy schedule for the next year.



THE HARTNESS ORGAN: FAST FACTS

- The organ has 42 stops, or "voices," with a wide variety of tone colors including flutes, principals, reeds (brass or woodwind-like stops) and strings.
- With more than 2,900 pipes, the instrument is played from three keyboards and a pedal-board for the feet. Each pipe is individually voiced (regulated with respect to tone color and volume) specifically for the chapel sanctuary.
- The smallest pipes are about the size of a pencil; the longest measure more than 16 feet. They are made of wood and a variety of metals (lead, tin, spotted metal, various alloys).
- A 36-foot freestanding organ case made of African mahogany houses the instrument.
- The keys are made of cowbone (naturals) and ebony (sharps).
- Key action is direct mechanical, or "tracker." Each key is attached to a tracker, a thin rod made of carbon fiber, phosphor bronze and aluminum. Each tracker, in turn, is connected to a pallet that admits air to the pipes. When depressing a key, the player has direct control (without an electric intermediary) over the speech of the pipes.
- Stops are controlled by a state-of-the-art electronic system that includes 128 levels of memory.
- The organ represents more than 24,000 individual hours of work.

HARTNESS ORGAN DEDICATORY SERIES

The dedicatory year for the Hartness Organ, C.B. Fisk Opus 121, will feature a wide range of music and talented artists. The schedule:

2004

April 18, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

DEDICATORY RECITAL. Charles Tompkins, organist, with the assistance of the Furman Chamber Choir, directed by William Thomas, performs works by J.S. Bach, Vierne, Jongen and Messiaen. Featuring the premiere of John Ferguson's *Concertato on "When the Morning Stars Together,"* commissioned by Warren and Jo Hartness Guinn.

May 4, 8 p.m.

ORGAN PLUS: MUSIC FOR CHOIR AND ORGAN. Charles Tompkins accompanies the Furman Chamber Choir, directed by Vivian Hamilton, in a program that spans five centuries.

September 21, 8 p.m.

ORGAN PLUS: MUSIC FOR INSTRUMENTS, VOICE AND ORGAN. Music faculty members join Charles Tompkins in works for organ, instruments and voice.

October 1, 8 p.m.

GUEST ARTIST: OLIVIER LATRY. The noted organist from Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris begins his annual North American tour.

2005

January 14, 8 p.m.

HYMN FESTIVAL. For the annual Church Music Conference, organist John Ferguson and director Anton Armstrong, both of St. Olaf College, join the Furman Singers and Furman Chamber Choir in an evening of hymns and choral selections.

February 10, 8 p.m.

GUEST ARTIST: DAVID HIGGS. A professor at Eastman School of Music, Higgs is known for his superb technique and musicianship.

March 8, 8 p.m.

ALUMNA ARTIST: EDIE JOHNSON. A 1996 Furman graduate, Johnson is the critically acclaimed organist at St. Paul's Episcopal in Indianapolis. She recently completed her doctorate in organ performance at Indiana University.

April 4, 8 p.m.

ORGAN PLUS: MUSIC FOR ORGAN, CHAMBER ORCHESTRA AND CHAMBER WINDS. Charles Tompkins performs with the Furman Chamber Strings, directed by Thomas Joiner, and the Furman Chamber Winds, directed by Leslie Hicken. Featuring works by Poulenc, Handel and Hindemith.

May 22, 3 p.m.

MEDITATIONS SUR LE MYSTERE DE LA SAINTE TRINITE. Charles Tompkins performs the South Carolina premiere of Olivier Messiaen's *Meditations on the Mystery of the Holy Trinity*, assisted by the Furman Chamber Choir and J. Michael Barone of American Public Radio's *Pipedreams*.

For additional details and costs, call the Furman music department at (864) 294-2086 or e-mail Furmanmusic@furman.edu.

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a soldier in silhouette, wearing a helmet and looking out over a battlefield. The soldier's face is obscured by shadow, and the background shows a hazy, war-torn landscape with smoke or dust in the air.

A SOLDIER'S

THE WAR IN IRAQ, THROUGH THE EYES OF A



STORY

CAPTAIN WITH THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION.

WE KNEW THAT WAR WOULD REACH US ALL

eventually. Many had already gone to Afghanistan and returned. America was waging a war on terror, so how could we not expect to fight at some point?

Beginning in November 2002, those of us in the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., heard the rumblings of war and the talk of deployment. When we went to Louisiana for a training exercise, there was even talk that we would ship all of our equipment straight from there to Iraq. In the end we did not, but as soon as we returned we began deployment and readiness exercises, culminating in the load-up of our equipment onto rail cars.

As executive officer, I was charged with ensuring that all equipment was properly loaded and ready for shipment. I spent many late nights in snow and rain at the Fort Campbell rail yard, which looked like a scene from a World War II movie: America deploys for war.

The day before we departed, a group of lieutenants and I gathered in the company commander's office and asked him, a Desert Storm vet, what war was like. He answered, "Six months of boredom punctuated by moments of sheer terror." How right he was.

LEAP INTO THE UNKNOWN

WE LEFT FORT CAMPBELL ON MARCH 1, 2003, and boarded a plane bound for Kuwait. For the 3,000 or so soldiers who had served in Afghanistan and were still in the 101st Airborne, this was an all too familiar routine. For me, it was an adventure and a huge leap into the unknown.

We settled into camps and waited tensely for the next few weeks. We joked that, as an Army, we had leaned so far forward in the foxhole in anticipation of war that we had fallen over and landed in Kuwait. We spent most of our time preparing for battle — gathering ammunition, drawing demolitions, packing and repacking equipment. And we carried NBC (Nuclear, Biological and Chemical) gear at all times.

The 3rd Infantry Division had already vacated the camps and was waiting to breach the border and cross the berm separating Kuwait and Iraq. When the news came on March 19 that the air campaign had begun and the 3rd Infantry had made its move, we knew we would be following soon.

After the American bombing campaign began, the SCUD missiles started flying. A piercing siren would alert everyone that a SCUD had been launched, and we learned to execute the NBC drill: Throw on your gear and gas mask and high-tail it to the nearest concrete bunker.

We joked that, as an Army, we had leaned so far forward in the foxhole in anticipation of war that we had fallen over and landed in Kuwait.



The author outside one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces in Mosul. Opposite: One of many caches of unexploded ordinance discovered and destroyed by the troops. (Photos courtesy David and Laura Medlin)

I was lucky enough to be in the shower one night when the siren began to scream. Having just finished soaping up, I decided I would rather die clean than run naked into the bunker. Fortunately, I won that lottery. Another night a huge explosion rocked us out of our sleep. At first I thought a SCUD had hit the camp, but we soon learned that it was one of our own PATRIOT missiles that had been launched from the camp to knock a SCUD from the sky.

We began moving north on March 22, following the path of the 3rd Infantry Division. We lined up the 3rd Brigade Combat Team vehicles into separate chinks for the Ground Assault Convoy (GAC) into Iraq. I was named convoy commander for about 26 vehicles making the 350-mile trip.

My best friend, 1st Lt. Matty Lowen, was in my group for the first leg. He had served in Afghanistan and had been shot at before, so he was a little less apprehensive than I was. His daily mantra: "War sucks, man."

When we got the word to move out, Matty and I loaded our weapons and turned up the Bob Marley music on the tape player. We listened to that tape for three days until we reached our objective. I used to associate Bob Marley with fruity drinks and the beach. I hope I haven't ruined it for myself.

Our cross country trip took us through horrendous desert terrain. My ear stayed glued to the radio while my eyes scanned the horizon for the enemy as I tracked our progress on the GPS (Global Positioning System). We made it to the objective without incident and set up a Forward Arming and Refueling Point (FARP) so that the division's aviation assets had a base from which to operate.

We spent 10 days at FARP Shell, which was much like spending 10 days on Mars. The dust storms were so bad that people would get lost walking the 200 meters from the Tactical Operations Center to their unit area on the perimeter. One day a storm rolled through

and the whole sky turned a thick, otherworldly orange. No space ships landed, though, and we went back to worrying about Saddam's Republican Guard.

After leaving FARP Shell, most of 3rd Brigade moved north into Al Hillah. The city offered a glimpse of civilization — and the impact of war. Everything was on fire, and enemy soldiers lay on the side of the road. The only engagements we saw were mostly two- to five-man teams of enemy fighters.

A MONTH IN BAGHDAD

A WEEK OR SO LATER, WE HEADED NORTH TOWARD the bigger fight in Baghdad. Before we left, I visited the ruins of ancient Babylon. How strange to see the cradle of civilization, such a historical landmark, in the context of war. But throughout our time in Iraq, we were both tourist and soldier.

We rolled into Baghdad on the tail end of the fighting, but the sight of burning vehicles indicated that not too long ago, this road was not safe to travel.

We spent April 2003 in Baghdad. The Saddam supporters who were still alive seemed to be hiding, and we had limited contact with any enemy. Good thing, too, because within a mile of our perimeter we found hundreds of Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) launchers, Kalishnikov Assault rifles (AK-47s), mortar rounds, a dozen surface-to-air missiles (SA-2), 10 artillery pieces and a dump truck full of thousands of Italian-made plastic mines. If there had been hands to put all of those weapons to use, we could have been in serious trouble.

We walked all over the city and its suburbs, destroying unexploded ordinance (UXO) and weapons caches. For the first time we were able to glimpse the everyday lives of the Iraqi people, and we bartered for supplies and food that would offer welcome respite from a steady diet of Army rations.



Still, the situation as a whole was chaotic. Looting was rampant, and buildings were stripped of everything that had any value. Every business with a safe was left in a charred pile of rubble as looters made off with the extra cash. Police were non-existent; American soldiers and locals with AK-47s offered the only security.

All the looting led to a huge street-side flea market, with everything from the kitchen sink to gold doorknobs, electrical outlets and machinery parts for sale. Everywhere we turned we saw that Saddam's face was being erased from the thousands of murals he had erected in tribute to himself. Our soldiers had a field day with the signs, spray-painting handlebar moustaches on Saddam and leaving kind words and phrases for him and others to enjoy.

Making our way around Baghdad was an experience. Iraqi drivers are worse than New Yorkers, and sheep share the streets with donkey carts, trucks and BMWs. There are no rules; traffic signals hold zero authority, and it was not uncommon to see cars going the wrong way down the highway simply because traffic on the other side was backed up.

During one trip to the nearest supply depot, a two-hour drive, we were caught in a huge traffic jam. Trucks coming from every direction were bottlenecked at a bridge. Most of them were full of looters who were cleaning out the nearby warehouse complexes. By this time, the looting was so bad we could not do anything to stop it. Plus, the thieves in the trucks almost certainly had more firepower than we did.

Here, I got to play traffic cop. It took a while, but the locals finally understood my directions (and terrible Arabic): "One truck Ali Baba [thieves], one truck Baghdad." Somehow we cleared the mess and made it through without incident. A few Iraqis were not so lucky, including one thief who needed first aid for the two bullet holes he had in his backside. I helped him out and had to laugh

a little, knowing that he wouldn't be able to sit down for a few weeks.

Accompanied by local interpreters, I would drive around southern Baghdad to check on reported UXO/cache sites. We stopped at one mud and brick hut that housed a large family. The father pointed toward a field and said, "Very bad there, Mister, very bad." When he launched into Arabic, I looked to the translator for help. "He says his daughter was blown up by one of those bombs last week. She thought it was a toy."

We slowly walked to the area he indicated, where we found the charred remains of two Republican Guard radar vehicles, both recipients of Uncle Sam's finest in bombing technology. The field was littered with BLU-97s, explosive bomblets that compose the actual bomb. The bomblets are bright yellow with a little parachute attached, and I must admit that if I were a child, I would have thought they were toys, too. I assured the man that we would come back and blow them all up.

I worked daily with Nada and Ali, a brother and sister team of interpreters. Nada was a university student temporarily out of school, since the university was out of operation. We had long talks about Iraqi culture, their hopes for Iraq, the differences between Shiite and Sunni, Muslims and Christians, and life in America.

I was surprised by their willingness to share their simple dreams. They wanted the freedom and ability to choose a career, attend school and travel. Both were devout Muslims but were very open to discussing religion. Nada questioned me about my belief in Jesus and seemed amazed that I thought He was the Son of God. She was not belittling, just surprised, and expressed great respect for Christ's teachings. We agreed that there were many similarities between the major religions and that the common



After lunch with Nada's family in Baghdad, Medlin used the guitar she found for him to entertain his hosts with American pop tunes; after leaving Baghdad in May, the 3rd Brigade traveled north through Mosul and settled into Tall 'Afar Airfield, located west of the city.

doctrines of love and care for the community served as bridges to religious differences.

Nada also loved literature and poetry, and we talked for hours about our favorite writers (we both enjoy Rumi and Mafouz, among others). She even went to downtown Baghdad and found an acoustic guitar for my birthday.

The highlight of my month in Baghdad was eating lunch at Nada and Ali's house in a suburb of the city. With three friends, I rode in the back seat of a civilian pickup most of the way — a rather scary trip, given Iraqi driving habits.

When we arrived in the neighborhood, we hid in the truck so as not to attract undue attention (as if we could avoid it). The house itself was quaint and sparsely furnished, and the electricity came on later in the afternoon.

Nada's family welcomed us as though we were old friends and served us a spread fit for kings: chicken, fish, rice, beans, fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, watermelon, dates and bread. It was the largest and best meal any of us had eaten in two months.

I have come to the conclusion that mothers are the same everywhere. They may speak different languages, but their maternal instincts are the same. Nada's mom grabbed us and hugged us, insisted that we eat, and kept asking if we needed anything. Three other siblings were there as well, and although only Nada spoke English, all of us joked and laughed, trying to make ourselves understood. The whole afternoon was like a giant game of charades.

The family gave us an Arabic lesson, and we talked religion and politics. I asked them what their hopes and dreams were now that they had the liberty to choose them. They said they wanted only "freedom, simple things, no more regime, only freedom and life without fear."

I had brought my guitar at Nada's insistence, and the family begged me to play some American music. So I played John Mellencamp, Hank Williams and Dave Matthews, and they clapped and danced. We stayed almost five hours, and they gave us Arabic names. I was "Ismi Basim," which means either smiling or laughter or is some cartoon character that makes people laugh. I guess Nada's family decided I was pretty goofy.

They told us to come back and visit anytime. I will never forget my lunch in Baghdad.

CALM BEFORE THE STORM

THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY, AFTER PRESIDENT BUSH declared an end to major combat operations, we moved about eight hours north through Mosul, where we set up headquarters in an abandoned airport terminal. I remained with 3rd Brigade and settled into Tall 'Afar Airfield, about an hour and a half west of Mosul. The most action the airfield had seen since the Iran-Iraq war was from local shepherds and their flocks of sheep and goats. We had to run them out of the hangars, along with the poisonous snakes and carnivorous spiders.

The war had yet to touch the northern cities, and most of the towns were carrying on as usual. Only government institutions and places without security were looted. Children ran to the road to wave and scream in delight as our convoys passed.

There was a distinct lull in violent activity for the next few months, and for a while every day seemed like a parade. The sporadic ambushes, explosions and mortar attacks were executed crudely and resulted in few casualties. All of us developed an attitude of complacency, if not downright apathy.

There was essentially no enemy at this time. We still carried weapons and scanned crowds for shooters, but the focus was less on rooting out the enemy and more on cleaning up and rebuilding Iraq. We still searched for weapons of mass destruction and other caches, but we spent more time looking at dams, pumping stations and electrical grids. The weather was hot, the locals were friendly, and we were all simply waiting for the word to go home.

A LOTTERY OF LIFE AND DEATH

SUDDENLY, ONE NIGHT IN LATE JULY, I AWOKE TO some terrific BOOMS!! We were taking indirect fire, but thanks to our spider-infested bunkers we were not in much danger. The Quick Reaction Force sent out to investigate found no enemy, just a few Chinese 107-mm rockets set up on dirt launch pads and aimed at the airfield. Two other 101st camps were targeted that same night — the first evidence we had seen of a coordinated insurgent effort.

Not long afterward, intelligence sources led Special Operations personnel to a home in Mosul (only a few miles from 101st headquarters) that held Uday and Qusay Hussein, numbers

The haphazard nature of the attacks fed the callous attitude toward death that many of us had developed.

two and three on the high value target list behind their father, Saddam. After the deaths of Saddam's sons, though, the insurgents' attacks began to increase with alarming intensity. IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) became the terrorist weapon of choice, with mortars and rockets a close second. We were facing an enemy again, but it had no face, no formal battle plans or habits.

As the attacks grew, we began hearing daily reports of RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade) ambushes or IED attacks. The entire country soon became a lottery of life and death, and you never knew when you left the compound if your convoy would be hit. The haphazard nature of the attacks fed the callous attitude toward death that many of us had developed. You were always on guard, but you were no longer afraid. How could you be? Attacks were so random that you could worry yourself sick trying to anticipate them.

A favorite tactic of the terrorists was to hide IEDs in piles of rubble. When a U.S. convoy would pass they would detonate the bomb, destroying equipment and killing and maiming as they could. Sometimes the insurgents would hide nearby and shoot at the convoy as well, although usually they would disappear into the crowd after the attack.

In early September, 10 vehicles took off on a convoy from Mosul toward another camp about an hour to the south. We had gone barely 100 yards when BOOM! An IED exploded right in front of the vehicle I was in and just behind the civilian SUV in front of us.

We followed our rehearsed drills and sped off, reconsolidating down the road. We jumped out of the trucks, guns loaded, ready to shoot anything that moved. I looked back at the smoke and pile of burning debris left by the explosion and tried to spot our attackers.

All I saw were an old woman carrying a child, an old man pushing a cart full of vegetables, and a boy of about 7 running down the street. None seemed overly concerned.

We waited tensely for a few minutes before going on. Later, when we inspected the site, it appeared that the IED had been placed in a storm sewer. When it blew up, the concrete walls of the drain absorbed most of the explosion and directed the blast up rather than out. I was thankful everyone was fine, but at the same time I almost wished I had seen some terrorists, just so we could have had a chance to respond. Instead, we saw women and children.

So it goes in this land of contradictions and extremes.

On September 11, we gathered outside the airport terminal for a memorial service to honor those who had died in the terrorist attacks two years before. How odd it was to think that after six months of deployment and 200 lives lost, the sacrifice we were making as soldiers paled in comparison to that of the victims of 9/11.

October was ostensibly a month of progress all over Iraq. A new currency flowed into the economy, democratic elections were held in the north, and the new governing council began drafting a constitution. The economy showed signs of significant improvement; the Karrada shopping district in Baghdad, which had been set ablaze in April, was now a bustling consumer haven. The national theater and museum reopened, and when I visited a fourth-century Christian monastery about 20 miles northeast of Mosul, I actually saw a bus full of tourists from Baghdad making their annual pilgrimage. Infrastructure also continued to improve as water and electricity became more reliable.



Death was something we had prepared for before coming to Iraq. But after eight months without losing a soldier in our battalion, it was hard to make any sense of Josh's death.

November, however, was a tragic month for the 101st. The entire month lay in the shadows of a somber cloud. Every day, it seemed, brought new attacks and ambushes — and far too many deaths. We still traveled in and around Mosul, but we did so with eyes peeled and a sense of dread that the next pile of rubble in the road might blow up in our faces.

On November 1, I came into the operations center and learned that there had just been an IED attack — and that two soldiers were dead. One turned out to be my friend Josh Hurley, a first lieutenant who worked in Mosul as an assistant in the mayor's office. Josh was in charge of civil projects throughout the city and was working to complete a new park. That park is now dedicated to him.

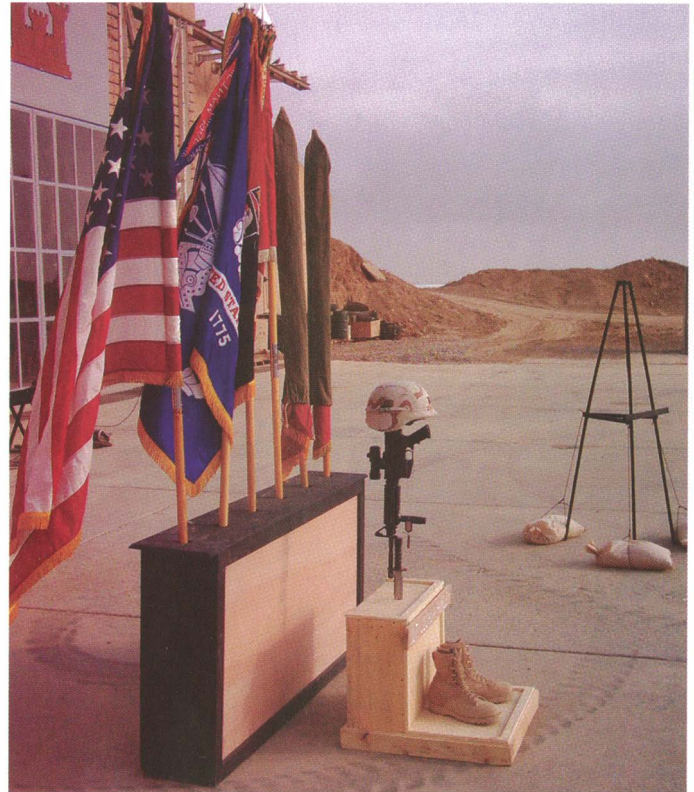
Death was something we had prepared for before coming to Iraq. After all, we are paid soldiers whose job is to fight for our country. But after eight months without losing a soldier in our battalion, it was hard to make any sense of Josh's death. There is truly a bond of brotherhood among soldiers, and it was evident in the faces and tears of the crowd that gathered to mourn his loss.

Somehow, though, we found comfort in each other. That night we sat under the stars, smoked cigars and let laughter heal our broken spirits. We told stories about our early days as platoon leaders and all the adventures we experienced as young officers.

I have been fortunate to serve with some wonderful people in my four years in the Army, and although many have moved on to new assignments, I know that the memories of our times together will continue to shape my life. I cannot describe, however, the frustration of losing a friend and the feeling of powerlessness to do anything about it. It is hard to take revenge on a bomb.

Exactly one week after Josh's memorial service, on November 15, we heard that two Black Hawk helicopters had gone down in the city. We spent a tense night preparing to launch a convoy to recover the helicopters and possible survivors pinned in the wreckage. A few hours before we left, we learned that 18 of our fellow soldiers had been killed in the crash and that there were only a few survivors.

At first light, we began a long day of recovery operations. It was a grisly scene, one that I will never be able to erase from my mind. Senior officers in the 101st were helping to sift through the debris for remains and humbly insisting on carrying the body bags out to the trucks. What I saw did not make me sick as much as it made me deeply sad. I can't imagine what the families of the victims were going through at the very time of our recovery. Maybe some did not even know yet and were going along as they always had, not realizing that their lives were about to be touched by tragedy.



Following military tradition, the memorial stand for Josh Hurley included his helmet, boots, weapon and dog tags.

FINAL PERSPECTIVES

DECEMBER BROUGHT THE END OF RAMADAN — AND with it, quieter days.

Of course, the best news of the war to date was the December 13 capture of Saddam Hussein near his hometown of Tikrit. I have walked through many of his palaces and seen his poor and terrorized people, so it was satisfying to learn that this man, who had surrounded himself with luxury while others suffered, was discovered hiding in a hole, looking bewildered and disheveled.

Had Saddam been found wearing a Gucci suit and driving around in a BMW, it could have appeared that an affluent ex-president had been chased down and caught by Americans, and he could once again have claimed that America was ruthlessly invading his country. Had he been killed rather than captured, he might have become a martyr for millions of Muslims.

From my vantage point, the reaction to Saddam's arrest was extremely positive. I received e-mails from local contractors with whom I had worked on construction projects, all of whom thanked our troops for putting an end to Saddam.



I also recalled a conversation I had in the spring with two elderly men in Baghdad. When I asked them if they thought we were changing Iraq for the better, they asked how long we would stay. They said as long as we stayed, things would improve, but when we left, Saddam would come back. Saddam's capture provided much needed closure for everyone, Iraqis and American soldiers alike.

I wish I could go back to Baghdad and find those men. I would ask them what they think of Iraq's future now. This time, I do not think they would be afraid to say Saddam's name aloud.

As I write this, the 101st Airborne Division is preparing to leave Iraq for a base in Kuwait. We leave knowing that we helped fight the war, topple an oppressive regime and rebuild a country. And we saw the arbiter of that oppression taken into custody.

I have read many articles about "Empire America" that questioned America's foreign policy and our pre-emptive attack on Iraq. I disagree with many aspects of American foreign policy, and I worry that Iraq or the Middle East in general will turn into the next Vietnam and become a guerilla playground for terrorists and a venue for killing Americans. The United States cannot continue to play the policeman of the world without help from other countries.

But after spending almost a year in Iraq and talking with many of its people, I have come to believe that the war is not about oil, or territory, or weapons of mass destruction. It is about freedom and the liberation of a people long oppressed.

When children and their parents line the streets yelling, "Good, good, Mr. Bush, good," you believe that you have done the right thing. When old men, still too afraid to mention Saddam by name, tell you that throughout their lives all they have known is war and violence but now they have hope for freedom, you know that you have been a part of something larger than yourself.

It is easy to look at this war without perspective — to slap convenient labels on policies, brand each American death a worthless tragedy and call it a desperate and untenable situation. It is quite another to be so resolute as to free a country, help to rebuild it and keep soldiers away from their homes and families for a year, all for the sake of freedom.

But I believe that it is reason enough. ●

The author, a 2000 Furman graduate with a degree in history, is a captain with the 326th Engineer Battalion deployed with the 101st Airborne Division. He submitted the final version of this story from Iraq on December 30, 2003. He returned to the States on January 29.

For the perspectives of his wife, Laura Sims Medlin '01, turn the page.

VIEW FROM THE HOME

1:50 a.m., March 1, 2003: His image in the rear-view mirror grows smaller.
I reach the end of the battalion's row of buildings, where I turn a corner . . . and he is gone.

I suppose we have all turned corners like that in our lives. And like most others, I imagine, I was unable to immediately gauge the significance of my new direction.

David and I had endured separations because of the Army before — through his years of camps and field training exercises in ROTC at Furman, to weeks and even months at a time after we were married. But sending him off to train in the back woods of Fort Campbell was a far cry from the uncertainty of war in a foreign land.

I was an Army spouse for little more than a year when war suddenly loomed large on the horizon. Both before and after David left, I often wondered how I would cope, what this war would be like and, God forbid, what I would do if he didn't come home. We had plenty of time to consider the answers to these questions, because on some level, we knew the goodbye would come eventually.

For us, the road to Baghdad began long before any negotiations with the United Nations or discussions about a "coalition of the willing." On September 11, 2001, David was in Missouri for a monthlong training program before our wedding in November. He did not return until early October, and even then we did not know whether he would stay and marry or go and fight.

In the end, he was not deployed to Afghanistan and we had our storybook wedding, but the war on terror had just begun to affect our lives. The first year of our marriage was spent constantly adjusting to the latest "level of readiness" of David's battalion and dealing with the resulting roller coaster of emotions that only foreshadowed what was to come. On February 7, 2003, the 101st Airborne Division received official deployment orders to the Middle East — and our worst fears became a sobering new reality.

When President Bush appeared on television March 17 to rally the country for the impending invasion of Iraq, no one at Fort Campbell was surprised. We were, however, painfully aware that our spouses' lives now hung somewhere in the balance between hell and home. And the world suddenly seemed a very small place.

For the next three weeks, I awoke every morning to the sound of my alarm, followed in short order by the first glimpses of the night's events and the breaking news on CNN. I've never been much of a morning person, but those weeks were the most sleepless and anxious of my life. Before I even got out of bed each day, I had already registered the last 12 hours' casualty count and scanned the battlefield for any possible movement by David's unit.

On March 22, news broke that David's unit, the 3rd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division (nicknamed the Rakkasans), had crossed the border into Iraq. I memorized the name of the CNN reporter embedded with the Rakkasans and tried to trace David's steps as best I could through him. I remember how very strange it seemed, watching the reporter on videophone broadcasts and wondering if I would catch a glimpse of David in the background. It never happened, but the thought that it could have gave me a sense of comfort.

After several days of tragic losses, the news began to improve as American units moved closer and closer to Baghdad. April 9, 2003, was a memorable day in Baghdad and in the world, as it came to be known as "Liberation Day" in Iraq. I watched in amazement and relief as the people toppled the statue of Saddam in Baghdad's city center. I cried tears of joy for the Iraqis cheering and waving in the streets, and for our soldiers as they waved back to the crowd. All in a day's work.

Even though David was not in Baghdad that day, I was proud of him all the same. He didn't have to fight a war or take down a dictator to be my hero, but I was moved and thankful for his part in the hope felt around the world that day.

After the fall of the regime, however, progress became more difficult for me to follow as reporters came home and media interest in the war waned. The initial, intense press coverage had at first made me feel closer to David, then more worried. As the coverage tapered off, I felt alone — and disappointed that the American public seemed bored and ready for a return to the normalcy of Hollywood scandals and the latest movie releases.

As the steady stream of news all but stopped, so did my daily connection to David's safety. The pace of everyday life resumed, and I began to miss him even more. And yet, the days did not stop. They kept coming, only I felt as though they were carrying me farther away from him.

When David arrived in Baghdad in April I was so happy to get his sporadic calls and e-mails about life with the Iraqi people. Before we met he had wanted to join the Army Special Forces, and I knew his interactions with the indigenous population in Iraq were more fulfilling than anything he had previously experienced.

He spoke eloquently and humorously about his attempts to communicate with the Iraqis, his fumbblings with engineer-related tasks, and his endless search for a guitar to play. I smile still to think of him on a street corner in Baghdad, picking out some lonesome tune in a crowd of incredulous Arabs. Life, we have both learned, is full of such contrasts.

Along with the eight other Army wives in my office, I was able to share

FRONT

BY LAURA SIMS MEDLIN

these stories and other bits of humor, and together we found comfort in our collective experiences and those of our husbands. Unfortunately, just as many of our conversations were about our endless frustrations with military red tape, rumors of this and that return date, and the always controversial pay cuts or increases during times of war.

By early July our conversations began to focus on the likelihood of the unit's return to Fort Campbell by September 1 — six months to the day David left. I was walking on air for a few weeks, preparing myself mentally for his return while also trying to contain my premature excitement. What I should have realized is that the best-case scenario rarely (if ever) happens in the Army. Almost overnight the talk shifted to the probability of an extended rather than a shortened deployment.

When the official news broke that the 101st would be staying in Iraq "indefinitely," I was devastated. Five months of loneliness, fear and uncertainty were behind me, but how many more remained? For the first time since David left, I was completely incapacitated. I went about the motions at work, ate when I remembered and slept a lot, all the while trying to comprehend a year without seeing David's face or feeling his arms around me. From mid-August to mid-October the days passed at a maddeningly slow pace, and each contact with David was overshadowed by the thought that we were perhaps only halfway home.

Finally, a timeline for redeployment of the 101st was published, indicating that March 1, 2004, was the goal for the unit's return. Ever so slowly, I adjusted to the idea that David would not be home for my birthday, or Thanksgiving, or even Christmas. "Take one year and I'll give you 70" became our casual adage, and we worked on maintaining a sense of optimism and staying mindful of our many blessings.

As this article is published, a year has passed since that early morning goodbye. David and I are finally able to speak of the future without fear or denial.

I also realize that my initial concern that he would somehow change as a result of war was unwarranted. He still has an amazing capacity for gentleness and humor. But I know that certain things, once a part of you, will never be forgotten and can never be erased.

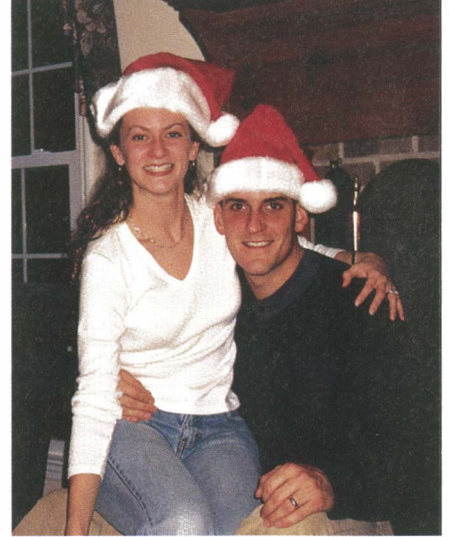
As the attacks on U.S. forces in the region increased, so did his exposure to pain and death. On November 1 David called to tell me that a friend and fellow officer in his company had been killed when a roadside bomb exploded. It seemed so unfair that, this long after major combat operations were declared over, so many were still losing their lives.

I think often about how we will begin to speak of the sadness and pain surrounding these many months apart. I am not the same person I was before the war began, and neither is my husband. We will have to get to know one another again, and most of all, to be patient. Such opportunities come so rarely, though, to rediscover familiar beauty and give thanks for it all over again.

The victories in this war, although great, have been few, and the lessons too many to count. And most Americans enjoy the luxury of evaluating White House policy without the complication of having a spouse in the direct line of fire.

I have asked myself many times during David's deployment whether war is a necessary evil. Many argue that all wars are evil but the men sent to fight them are ultimately good. Others proclaim that there are such things as "just" wars, and that those who give their lives in these conflicts do not die in vain.

I guess I would have to agree with both of these statements. War is a terrible confession of our failure to address our differences peacefully and civilly. We send



our fathers, brothers, husbands and wives into harm's way to defend a cause and carry out a mission. We endure hardship in the form of separation, mental anguish, loss of livelihood and even life.

But somewhere in the fog of war another side of human nature is revealed, and this is what allows hope to live on: A young Marine crying over the body of an injured Iraqi boy . . . a flower placed in the helmet of a liberating soldier by a man taught to hate all that the uniform represents . . . women able to walk through the streets of their cities with a new sense of purpose and respect.

Living through a war and loving a man who has fought in it have taught me many things about joy, sorrow, empathy and faithfulness. I cringe to think of all the innocent lives on both sides forever changed by violence, but I rejoice in the belief that many more lives have been given a chance. I realize how sheltered and coddled the average American is, and how stepping out on the world stage a little would benefit all of us.

Most of all, I recognize what I have been given in this life, and I realize that baptism by fire is sometimes the only way to make us into the people we are destined to be. ●

The author, a 2001 Furman graduate with a double major in psychology and Spanish, plans to enroll in a graduate program in educational psychology this fall. She and her husband can be reached at dbmedlin@earthlink.net.



The Art of the Mandala

BUDDHIST MONKS VISIT CAMPUS TO SHARE THE ANCIENT PRACTICE OF SAND PAINTING.



urman's University Center has hosted a wide variety of events: concerts, appearances by well-known personalities (Madeleine Albright, Tom Brokaw, John Grisham), and even hypnotists.

But few of its attractions have piqued as much interest as the monks from Drepung Loseling.

And no, Monks from Drepung Loseling is not the name of an alternative rock band. They are authentic Tibetan Buddhist monks representing the Drepung Loseling Institute in Atlanta.

The monks, who travel frequently to colleges and museums, were at Furman January 12-15 to construct a mandala, an intricate "sand painting" filled with geometric shapes and spiritual symbols. The ancient practice dates back an estimated 20,000 years and is meant to spread "mystic enlightenment." Throughout the monks' visit, a stream of curious on-lookers stopped by the University Center's main lobby to marvel at their discipline and craftsmanship.

During the opening ceremony for construction of the mandala, the monks consecrated the site. Dressed in colorful regalia, they chanted, danced and played assorted percussion and wind instruments as they prepared for the task at hand.

Then, working in groups of three or four, the monks outlined the mandala from memory on a tabletop that measured approximately 4 feet by 4 feet. Over the next few days, they used special instruments to lay millions of grains of colored sand into place.

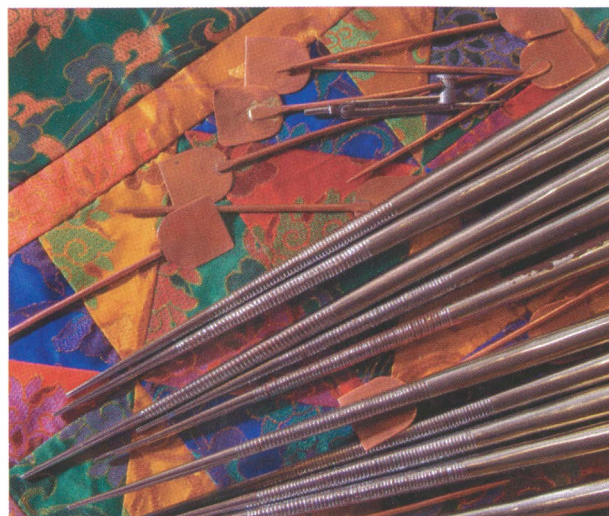
Mandalas have outer, inner and secret meanings. On the outer level, they represent the world in its divine form. On the inner level they represent a map by which the ordinary human mind is transformed into an enlightened mind, and on the secret level they depict the perfect balance of the subtle energies of the body and mind. The creation of a sand painting is said to effect purification and healing on all three levels.

Once their work was complete — and in keeping with tradition — the monks held a closing ceremony in which they dismantled the mandala, distributed small portions of the collected sand to all who requested it, and poured the remnants into the Furman lake.

The destruction of a mandala symbolizes the impermanence of all things physical. Pouring the sand into a flowing body of water disperses the healing energies of the mandala throughout the world.

The monks of Drepung Loseling Monastery in South India established the Atlanta institute in 1991. The institute is dedicated





to the study of Tibetan Buddhist traditions and the preservation of the endangered Tibetan culture, which today leads a fragile existence in refugee communities in India and Nepal. In 1998, the institute established an academic affiliation with Emory University. Its objective is to promote transcultural understanding and scholarly interchange.

The monks' visit to Furman was sponsored by FUSAB (Furman University Student Activities Board), Students for a Free Tibet, University Housing, Dining Services and the departments of Religion and Asian Studies. ●

— John Roberts

To learn more about the institute and the art of sand painting, visit www.drepung.org and www.mysticalartsoftibet.com.

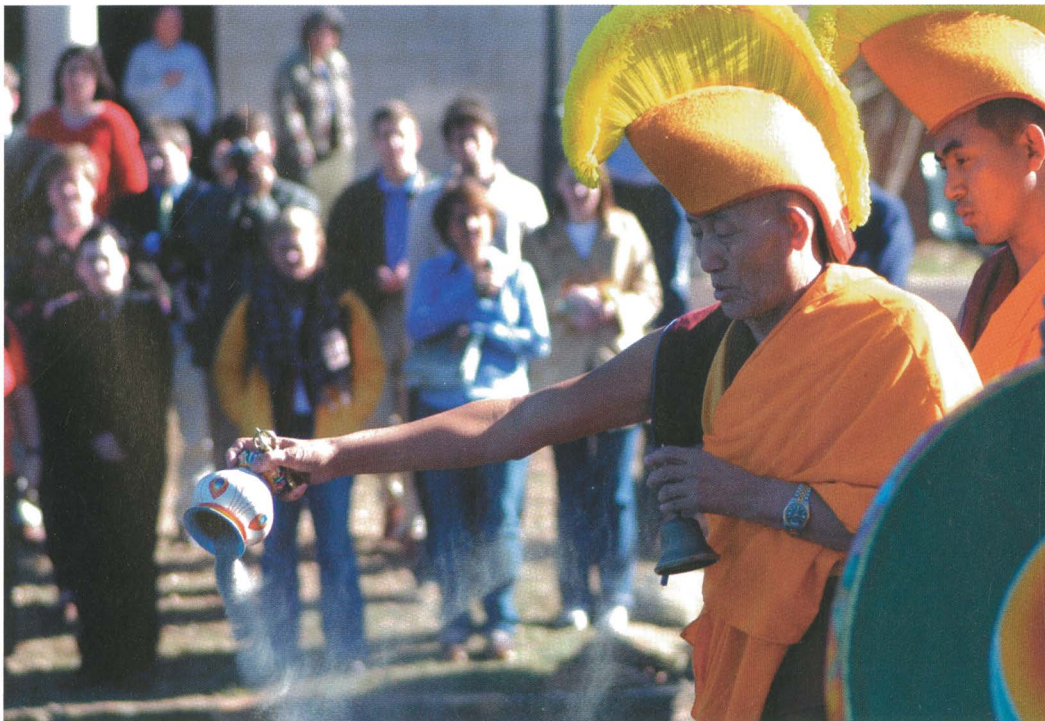


Opposite: Containers of colored sand await the start of work on the mandala, which takes several days. This page: The monks don ceremonial garb and play exotic instruments at both the opening and closing celebrations; well-used tools of the trade; before starting to "paint," the monks, working from memory, painstakingly draw the outline of the mandala, a process that takes several hours.





Opposite: The monks use metal funnels, called *chak-pur*, to pour the sand. Holding a *chak-pur* in one hand, they run a metal rod along its notched surface. The vibration allows the sand to flow like liquid. This page: After completion, mandalas are destroyed in a service that signifies life's impermanence. The sand is swept into the middle of the table; after small portions are distributed to observers, the remainder is placed in an urn. The monks then process to a nearby body of water where they disperse the sand, so that its healing blessing goes to the ocean and on to the world.



A Few Good Men

By Jim Stewart

QUATERNION, FURMAN'S MOST SELECT HONORARY SOCIETY, CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL.

SCHOLARSHIP. LEADERSHIP. CHARACTER. LOYALTY. These qualities, worthy of recognition in any individual, serve as the main criteria for election to Quaternion, the university's select honorary society for men.

Since Quaternion was founded by four students on November 27, 1903, 577 Furman men have been elected to the organization. An additional nine — professors, administrators and friends who have made lasting contributions to university life — have been awarded honorary membership.

Little is known as to why the four members of the Class of 1904 — Clement Furman Haynsworth, James Crawford Keys, Robert McHardy Mauldin and Ibzan Rex Rice — decided to establish Quaternion. But through the years its prestige has grown to the point that election to the society is now considered the highest honor a Furman man can receive.

On November 15, 2003, 68 members of Quaternion, representing classes from 1932 to 2004, were joined by 58 guests at a banquet commemorating the 100th anniversary of their august organization. Together they laughed, shared stories and celebrated both their common bonds and the history, purpose and sense of tradition that is Quaternion.

Indeed, only the *Bonhomie*, the yearbook first published in 1900, and the *Echo*, the literary magazine started in the 1890s, predate Quaternion as ongoing Furman groups. Senior Order, the corresponding organization for women, began in the mid-1930s.

The name Quaternion is derived from the Latin word “quattuor,” meaning four, which signifies both the number of original members and the qualities those selected are deemed to exemplify. According to a history compiled by Meredith Crowell '02, the founding members, all of whom were from South Carolina, were student leaders who were “members of the Adelpian Literary Society, involved with the Furman *Echo*, the university's literary magazine, and participated in Furman athletics.” They were “very active members of the Furman community, both while attending the university and as alumni.” In later years they would often invite members past and present into their homes for dinner and conversation.

The club they founded, however, had a fitful start, as it was inactive for four years after they graduated. In 1907, believing that the organization could, according to Crowell, “provide an important connection between alumni, current students, and the university,” they reactivated the group by selecting new members from the Class of 1908.

As Quaternion became more established, its existence became threatened by the board of trustees' concern about its “secrecy” and similarity to a fraternity. During negotiations with the board about the group's status, which lasted from 1915 to 1920, Quaternion continued to elect new members for each class except 1920.

Eventually it was reorganized, with board approval, as “a strictly graduate honor club in which members would be admitted only after final examinations in their senior year.”

From 1921 to 1932, Quaternion was officially an alumni group. But the board's concerns about campus societies soon abated, and Crowell says that “On June 1, 1932, Quaternion adopted a constitution that allowed the club to exist as two organizations, one graduate and the other undergraduate. The latter organization would be composed of no more than four men from both the junior and senior classes. In addition to these two groups, the club also selects honorary members who display significant loyalty and service to Furman.”

Election procedures have been modified several times since, but in recent years Quaternion has adhered closely to the guidelines established in 1932.

Each spring the incumbent Quaternions — four seniors — gather to choose the new class. The deliberations can be grueling; members have been known to agonize for hours over their choices. In the end, they elect four students from the graduating class and four from the rising senior class.

The process helps to ensure that Quaternion is not simply an old boy's club or a group of friends electing other friends. More accurately, it is a diverse, loosely organized group of men who are chosen by their peers on the basis, first and foremost, of their love for alma mater and selfless contributions to university life.

As James C. Edwards '65, Quaternion member and longtime Furman philosophy professor, has said, “The organization represents more of a bond to Furman than it does a bond between other members.”

Perhaps the most public role Quaternion has played in the university's storied past is in the preservation of Old College. Three times in the last 100 years, Quaternion has stepped forward to save the building, which was the first facility constructed on the downtown campus after Furman moved to Greenville in 1851.

According to Crowell's history, much of which was culled from Quaternion records and from the minutes of trustee meetings, “On June 7, 1910, President [Edwin McNeill] Poteat proposed to the Furman Board of Trustees that the then unused [Old College] be torn down. The next day, Quaternion founder and Board member C.F. Haynsworth proposed that Quaternion take over the building as its meeting place. Trustees passed this resolution with the condition that the club would repair the building and care for the premises surrounding it. Quaternion members immediately spent \$500 redecorating the interior, while leaving the outside unchanged, intending to preserve the building ‘as a relic’.”



CHARLIE REGISTER



CHARLIE REGISTER

Current members of Quaternion from the Class of 2004 are, front from left, Brandon Inabinet and Ben Davis; back from left, David McGill and Patrick Kerley. They are charged with electing new members for induction this spring. Opposite: Quaternion has stepped forward three times to ensure the preservation of Old College.

Not long thereafter, in 1919, Furman once again considered demolishing Old College, this time to make room for a new residence hall. But Quaternion pushed successfully for the building to be moved to another location on the downtown campus.

In 1958, as Furman prepared to move to its new campus on the outskirts of Greenville, Crowell reports that "Quaternion was responsible for deciding the fate of its Old College headquarters. After deliberating on the issue, Quaternion decided to move the building . . . taking responsibility for all aspects of the second move, including funding and selecting a site . . . which they did with help from campus architects. The cost of the move was \$2,687.28, not including landscaping and parking for the building."

Today Old College stands near the Bell Tower on the north side of campus. New members receive a key at their induction — although they are no longer required to whitewash the building, as was the custom in earlier days.

Through the years members of the society have been among the university's most distinguished alumni and generous supporters, and the club has donated time and resources to various university projects. Its current emphasis is tied to one of Furman's greatest needs: scholarship support.

Quaternion has a long history of providing scholarship aid to Furman students, and as part of its 100th anniversary celebration it has worked diligently to boost the Quaternion Scholarship Fund, which was established in 1979. The group's efforts are paying off; thanks to the generosity of more than 90 percent of the club's members, the fund has surpassed \$300,000 in cash on hand and, counting deferred gifts and estate plans, has more than \$1 million

FOUNDING FATHERS

What do we know about the founders of Quaternion, those far-sighted gentlemen from the Class of 1904? Steve McKinney '82, the organization's president, researched their post-Furman lives and provides these tidbits:

■ **Clement Furman Haynsworth** (bottom) attended law school at Harvard before returning to Greenville, where he joined his father's law firm and enjoyed a distinguished career.

■ **James Crawford Keys** (second from top) was a business and civic leader in Greenville and was founder of Keys Printing Company, which remains a highly successful local enterprise.

■ **Robert McHardy Mauldin** (second from bottom) worked for the J.E. Sirrine engineering company in Greenville before moving to Charlotte, N.C., where he was affiliated with Saco-Lowell Shops. He served as chair of the Charlotte School Board.

■ **Ibzan Rex Rice** (top) was a captain in the artillery in World War I and later founded Rice-Cleveland & Company, a chain of general merchandise stores that served mill communities in and around Greenville.



pledged. While continuing to raise funds toward its cash goal of \$500,000, Quaternion has also amended its scholarship agreement to state that the future purpose of the award will be to support first-generation college students.

Since its establishment 100 years ago, Quaternion has stood for such standards as service, involvement and commitment to Furman. Not surprisingly, its roster is dotted with names that read like a Who's Who of Furman history: Plyler. Blackwell. Johns. Riley. Selvy. Floyd. Shi.

This spring, the names of eight more young men will be added to the select list. They will wear the traditional red bandana, receive their key to Old College, and sign the roster that contains the name of every member elected since 1903. And they will know that, in the eyes of their peers, they embody the finest traditions of scholarship, leadership, character and loyalty to Furman.

As for the rising seniors in the group, they will have the pleasure of representing the start of a new era for Quaternion — the second hundred years. ●

To make a donation to the Quaternion Scholarship Fund, call Betsy Moseley '74, director of planned giving, at (864) 294-3491 or e-mail her at betsy.moseley@furman.edu.

In addition to Meredith Crowell, Steve McKinney '82, Si Pearman '87 and John Roberts contributed to this article.

Furmanreports

Award-winning program aids non-profit groups

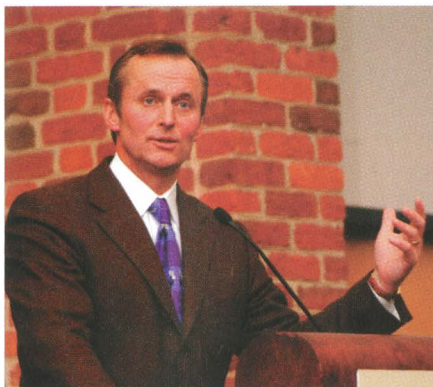
A Furman program in which students and employees re-engineer obsolete university computers and donate them to area organizations received the Community Service Award at the 2003 Innovision Technology Awards Program November 12 in Greenville. The Innovision awards celebrate innovation and technological excellence in business, education and the community.

The Furman program, called "Operation Reboot," has in recent years placed more than 100 recycled Furman computers with charities and non-profit agencies. Recipients have included the Greenville Rescue Mission, the YWCA, shelters for homeless and battered women, and the Newberry County Public Schools.

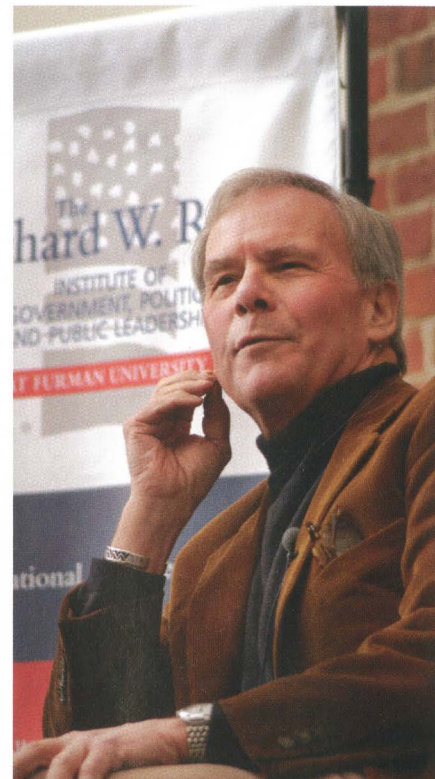
Through Operation Reboot, Furman's Department of Computing and Information Services adapts old machines to fit the basic technological needs of the recipients. After an agency is identified, it receives a visit from a Reboot volunteer who helps determine how best the machines can be used. C&IS staff members and student assistants then sort through the components of old computers (CD-drives, memory, hard drives) and piece together custom-designed machines.

Student volunteers, some of whom hold advanced technical certification, deliver and install the revamped machines, using Linux and other no-cost but high-tech operating systems to network the computers and protect them from viruses. The students also conduct training sessions for agency personnel and provide technical support when problems arise. When a recycled computer outlives its usefulness, Operation Reboot issues a replacement if one is available.

Compute Services, a hardware services contractor, has partnered with Operation Reboot to provide licensed copies of an obsolete but functional version of Microsoft Office that is loaded on the hard drives. Other university vendors have pitched in and donated such items as furniture, printers and free Internet access. To date, no non-profit agency that has asked for help has been turned away.



Grisham (top) visited for a day; Morgan (near right) was writer-in-residence winter term. Brokaw took a break from his debate duties to address a packed house.



Furman welcomes high-profile guests

The arrival of winter term brought a flurry of special guests to Furman.

Most notable was Tom Brokaw, long-time anchor of the *NBC Nightly News*, who visited the University Center January 29. He was in Greenville to moderate that night's Democratic Presidential Debate, which was co-sponsored by Furman and held at the Peace Center for the Performing Arts.

During his talk and subsequent question-and-answer session, Brokaw reminded students that the decisions made today will have a profound effect on their futures, and that they should become as informed about the political process as possible. His appearance was sponsored by the Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics and Public Leadership.

Best-selling novelist John Grisham, whose latest book, *The Last Juror*, was just released, spoke on campus January 21 before traveling to downtown Greenville for the Upstate Diamond Classic, a fundraising event for the Furman baseball team. When Grisham's son was looking at colleges a few years ago, they visited Furman and struck up a friendship with baseball

coach Ron Smith. This year, when Smith called to invite Grisham to the Diamond Classic, he agreed to attend — and to stop by campus as well for a conversation with students, faculty and staff.

The author of 17 books, most of them legal thrillers, Grisham talked about his writing career, offered advice to prospective authors, and emphasized his love for college baseball. (See page 47 for a story on the "John Grisham of the Christian market.")

Award-winning writer Robert Morgan, an English teacher at Cornell University and a native of the North Carolina mountains near Hendersonville, spent the term on campus as writer-in-residence. He previously was writer-in-residence in winter 2002.

Morgan, a poet and novelist whose works include *Gap Creek* (1999), an Oprah Book Club selection and winner of the Southern Book Award, and *The Truest Pleasure* (1995), a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year, worked with students on independent study projects in creative writing. His most recent novel is *Brave Enemies*, published in October.

Linda Julian, 1946-2003

Linda Julian, who joined the Furman English faculty in 1980 and in 2002 won the Alester G. Furman, Jr., and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Teaching, died November 29 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Memorials: Linda Julian Scholarship Fund, Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, S.C. 29613.

Linda Julian was, quite literally, a colorful person. Yellow was her favorite, I think, with red a close second. Without her presence, Furman Hall would have been a considerably duller place.

Linda also had a flair for the unlikely. She began her career as a newspaper reporter, and she ended it as a specialist in Victorian literature. A native Greenville, teaching at Furman, she earned her Ph.D. commuting to Boston University, where a Great Literary Scholar playfully referred to her as “our little Baptist,” because Linda was the only person in the building who could confidently identify biblical allusions. (Linda was also considerably taller than that professor, I believe.)

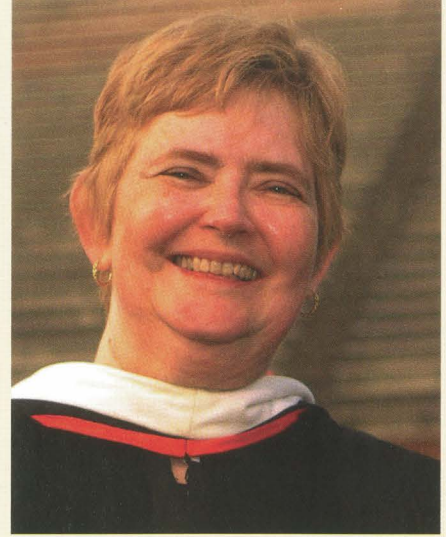
An unwavering feminist, Linda would frequently joke about the stunningly good looks of her male students — in part, to parody conventional sexism, and in part, to show her genuine appreciation for youthful beauty. (I never quite figured out the relative percentages, though.) And she certainly needed a flair for the unlikely to utter her marriage vows in the Allen living room, with its mousy brown carpet, in front of the Heatilator fireplace. At least the hearth’s ceramic tiles were yellow. My wife, Barbara, had the inspiration of giving Linda and her husband, Clark Brittain ’72, a spare tile for a keepsake — one of the most durable wedding mementoes of all time.

Every spring, for the past four years, Linda and I team-taught English 22, a survey of English and American literature since 1798. A large class (40 to 50 students), it gave us the opportunity to meet most of Furman’s new English majors and

to enjoy the scholarly enthusiasms of our colleagues in their guest lectures. We were a good team. I made the trains run on time, and Linda made sure that everyone (well, almost everyone) stayed happily on board.

Linda’s best teaching, however, occurred outside the classroom. Her office door always had a conference sheet posted nearby, overflowing with names. For years, she served as faculty advisor to the student newspaper, and she took her duties seriously. A former *Paladin* editor, Randall David Cook ’91, recalls her expert guidance: “Every Monday or Tuesday I’d meet with her and get my ‘special’ copy of the paper that had been published the Friday before, which would be covered in red ink. Her corrections. Her comments. Nothing escaped those eyes of hers, and each week I’d learn . . .” Members of the academic administration also learned that Linda could, with equal fervor, lament *The Horse*’s misadventures and invoke the First Amendment.

That eminent Victorian, Oscar Wilde, noted that it requires a very fine nature indeed to sympathize with the *success* of another person. What made Linda most remarkable, I think, was her ability to take genuine, almost flamboyant delight in the achievements of others. Whether that person was a colleague with a new manuscript (who might need her astute editorial eye), a friend with a new child (who might need her able services as a babysitter), or a freshman who’d finally managed to write an entire essay without a single comma splice (who might need her effusive but strategically deferred praise), Linda would recognize and celebrate achievement.



Hundreds of students and dozens of faculty members benefited from her scrupulous, timely encouragement. In Linda’s presence, one’s best self felt welcome and understood.

Linda and I had our last extended conversation on Saturday, November 15. Over a period of several hours, she drifted in and out of consciousness. Near the end of our on-again, off-again discussion, she mentioned a woman she’d been seeing lately, out of the corner of her eye. Linda described this woman in considerable detail. Sometimes the woman would be wearing a dark skirt, sometimes dark slacks. But she’d always have on a white blouse with a delicately pointed collar, contrasting with her black (though not artificially tinted) hair. I asked Linda if the woman was anyone she knew; if the woman had said anything to her; if the woman seemed to embody some feeling or idea. To all of these questions, Linda replied, simply, *No. She just stands there. But I’m looking forward to meeting her and talking with her.*

Meeting and talking. Talking *with*, rather than talking *to*. Linda firmly believed in what the youthful Elinor Frost called “conversation as a force in life.” She loved talking *and* listening, writing *and* reading, in equal measure. I hope she still does.

— Gilbert Allen
Professor of English

Williams, Thompson were former mathematics instructors

The Department of Mathematics lost two former instructors in 2003 with the deaths of Sumner McBee Williams and Miles Howlett Thompson. Williams, who taught at Furman from 1958 to 1973, died November 8 at the age of 79. Thompson, who was on the faculty from 1966 to 1976, died March 11. He was 89.

A native of Asheville, N.C., Williams was an Air Force veteran of World War II

and a recipient of the Flying Cross and Air Medal. He earned his undergraduate degree from Davidson College and his master’s from Emory University. Before coming to Furman, he taught at McCallie School in Chattanooga, Tenn., and at Westminster School in Atlanta, where he also served as principal. He was a founder of Camp High Rocks in Cedar Mountain, N.C., from which he retired in 1988.

Thompson was a graduate of the University of Missouri and held two master’s degrees, one in civil engineering from Harvard University and the other in mathematics from Duke University. He served as a government civil engineer from 1935-37 before becoming an engineer officer with the U.S. Army and Air Force, serving from 1937-64. He retired with the rank of colonel.

Big screen debut

Athletic skill helps student earn part in Radio

A personal assistant. A salary. A membership in the Screen Actors' Guild.

Evan Aldrich '04 never anticipated these perks when he answered the call for movie extras in his hometown paper, the *Savannah* (Ga.) *Morning News*, in September 2002. However, after landing the role of the high school quarterback in the film *Radio*, he got to enjoy the "star" treatment and the benefits that go with a speaking role in a major motion picture.

Radio, released in October by Sony Pictures, is the true story of the special relationship between a high school football coach in Anderson, S.C., and a mentally challenged man, after whom the movie is named.

Aldrich, a business administration major at Furman and a member of TKE fraternity, had no previous acting experience. But he seems to have had no problem working alongside such Hollywood veterans as Academy Award winner Cuba Gooding, Jr., and Ed Harris, and he is quick to praise their down-to-earth attitude.

Aldrich, along with nearly 150 others, actually auditioned for a part as a basketball player, but he landed the role of the quarterback, Danny, after catching the attention of casting director Mark Ellis. Ellis, known for his work on such football movies as *Jerry Maguire* and *Varsity Blues*, introduced Aldrich to director Mike Tollin, who then asked Aldrich to read for the part of the quarterback.

Aldrich beat out 10 other actors for the role, becoming the movie's only contracted actor with no previous acting experience. He appears in a number of game scenes and has a few lines, although several scenes in which he had major speaking parts were left on the cutting room floor.

While acting was new for him, Aldrich was no stranger to athletics. He played quarterback for St. Andrew's School in Savannah and was recruited to play both football and basketball at Furman. Possessing an athletic build and standing 6-3, he played on the Paladin basketball team during the 2000-01 season.



Now that he's had a taste of acting, Evan Aldrich is ready for more.

After being cast, Aldrich, who was well into the fall term of his junior year, took "Incompletes" in all of his classes and moved to the rural town of Walterboro, S.C., 40 miles south of Charleston, where filming took place. From October to December 2002 he lived in a studio-provided apartment, rehearsing lines and learning choreographed football plays.

When not working on the film, Aldrich says the cast and crew hung out together, frequently meeting at Walterboro's few gathering spots ("the bar or the bowling alley"). Aldrich says they became a tight-knit group on and off the set. He admits that he was intimidated by the stars at first, but they grew closer as filming progressed, and he fondly recalls going out for an evening in Charleston with Gooding.

"We spent a lot of time together at the end of filming, just hanging out, cracking jokes," says Aldrich. "Cuba was one of my favorite people I met during this experience."

During the three months of filming he enjoyed many perks that came with the job, including a generous salary, cast parties and two catered meals a day. However, everything was not all fun and games — Aldrich dislocated his shoulder during filming.

In addition, preparations for the football scenes were strenuous. October and November were filled with rehearsals for the game scenes, which weren't actually filmed until the last two weeks of November and the first two weeks of December. Filming would begin at 6 p.m. and run until 6 a.m. "The temperature was sometimes below freezing," says Aldrich, "but the players and fans had to act like it was early fall."

In spite of his newfound celebrity, Aldrich is self-deprecating and humble about his role in the movie and cringes when fellow students jokingly call him "Radio." But the opportunity has whetted his appetite for movie-making, and after he graduates in June he will move to Los Angeles to pursue an acting career. He plans to live with Riley Smith, an actor he befriended while filming *Radio*.

Aldrich acknowledges that his chances of making it big are uncertain, but he wants to explore the possibility before going to law school. With his Southern manners and laid-back attitude, he is likely to be a refreshing addition to the Hollywood community.

— Mary Brannon

The author is a senior English major from Atlanta.

BOOK MARKS

Featuring summaries of books written by Furman faculty and alumni, as well as reviews of books recommended by faculty and staff as "good reads."

RECOMMENDED

Barbara Strauch, *The Primal Teen: What the New Discoveries About the Teenage Brain Tell Us About Our Kids* (Doubleday, 2003). Why do teenagers sleep until noon, slam doors, engage in shouting matches, forget to call home and take chances with their health? I used to think it was largely due to fluctuating hormones, but this book explores the growing body of research suggesting that teen behavior may be affected more by profound biological changes taking place in their brains. Until recently scientists believed that brain growth and development were largely completed by the end of early childhood, but recent research suggests that much is happening to the teenage brain. While selected synoptic connections are radically pruning, others are strengthened. This rewiring helps to explain their mood changes, responses and behaviors — so while fluctuating hormones and the social environment may be major players in the teen drama, the brain is directing the show. All readers, and especially those who work with adolescents, will find this book a valuable resource.

— Lorraine DeJong,
Education

Erik Larson, *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America* (Crown Publishing Group, 2003). This is "the spellbinding true story of two men, an architect and a serial killer, whose fates were linked by the greatest fair in American history: the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, nicknamed 'The White City'." The author paints a wonderfully complex picture of 1890s Chicago, where despite oppressive economic and social conditions, not to mention the weather, the citizens managed to bring an incredible event to the

world. As you read the book, you'll meet a remarkable cast of characters and be amazed by the architects' ability to complete the fair and, in the process, to "out Eiffel [as in Tower] Eiffel." A fun read.

— Nancy Sloan,
Assistant Librarian

James Carroll, *Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews* (Houghton Mifflin, 2001). This award-winning book traces the history of the relationship of the church to the Jews, from Christian origins to the period of post-Holocaust dialogue. While the author focuses specifically on the Catholic tradition, the book is more a chronicle of Western — rather than solely Catholic — anti-Semitism. In addition to documenting this history, Carroll poses theological and philosophical arguments about the radical change of direction the Church must take in view of its past complicity in Jew hatred. He adeptly places the writing of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' death within the tragic context of Roman-Jewish colonial relations and also makes clear the import of the "Christ-killing" charge, which has served as justification for violent actions against Jews throughout history. For those wondering why controversy already abounds concerning Mel Gibson's movie on the Passion, this book will provide important historical context.

— Shelly Matthews, Religion

Simone de Beauvoir, *A Very Easy Death* (originally published in France, 1964; English translation, Pantheon Books, 1965). This book chronicles both the death of the author's mother and also her own reactions to what she called her mother's "vain tenaciousness" as she clung to the unrealistic hope that she would recover. Beauvoir writes of this bedside vigil in a Paris nursing home with candor and pity. After an adult life in which

she was estranged emotionally from her mother, Beauvoir says that as they "talked in the half darkness" she "assuaged an old unhappiness; I was renewing the dialogue that had been broken off during my adolescence . . . the early tenderness that I had thought dead forever came to life again, since it had become possible for it to slip into words and actions." This is a powerful, moving account of brief suffering and death, and of an adult child's complicated grief.

— Janis Crowe, English

Charles Kimball, *When Religion Becomes Evil* (Harper San Francisco, 2002). The paperback edition of this book, released a year after its original publication on the first anniversary of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, signals the need we still have to understand what motivated those horrifying actions. More than that, though, this book is a passionate call to all persons of religious conviction to examine their own faith so as to avoid the creation of such destructive attitudes. The author is a scholar of Islam, a Baptist minister and a former Furman religion professor who now is chair of the religion department at Wake Forest University. He contends that all well-established religions "converge in teaching both an orientation toward God or the transcendent and compassionate, constructive relationships with others in this world." But he also argues that religious practitioners may, at times, depart from their true vision, and as a result, their religion becomes evil. The five warning signs of religion gone wrong and Kimball's appeal to find "an inclusive faith rooted in a tradition" are well worth consideration.

— Helen Lee Turner, Religion

FROM ALUMNI

Gary E. Parker '76, *Highland Grace* (Bethany House, 2003). A Crossings Book Club main selection, this is the third and concluding book in the Blue Ridge Legacy series, following Christy Award nominee *Highland Hopes* and *Highland Mercies*. *Highland Grace* completes the 100-year saga of Abigail Porter Holston and her family by taking the reader — and Abigail's children and grandchildren — through the second half of the

20th century. *Library Journal* says, "Parker combines well-rounded characters and a compelling plot with a strong sense of place and mountain traditions. Fans of the other two books and readers who loved *Christy*, Catherine Marshall's classic tale about Appalachia, will enjoy." Parker is senior minister at First Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga.

Donny Wilder '54, *Editor's Notebook* (Palmetto Conservation Foundation Press, 2003). The author, a veteran of more than 40 years in the newspaper business, has compiled this collection of columns from his 20 years as editor of *The Chronicle* in Clinton, S.C., where he was born and reared. As the publisher states, "From politics to puppy paternity, government to goats, famous to the infamous, Donny Wilder has seen, experienced and written about nearly every facet of small-town living. His characters and stories range from poignant to peculiar to downright hilarious, [and] his social commentaries offer an uplifting outlook on life [while capturing] the heart, humor and hopes of Wilder's community."

FROM FACULTY

T. Lloyd Benson, *The Caning of Senator Sumner* (Wadsworth Publishing, 2003). In May of 1856, when South Carolina Congressman Preston S. Brooks caned Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner on the Senate floor, he shocked the nation and shattered the fragile truce that had existed between North and South. This book introduces students to a key turning point in the coming of the Civil War. Because the story incorporates so many of the era's key issues (slavery, abolition, personal liberty laws, state's rights, territorial expansion, ideals of gender and manhood, and others), the book provides an excellent window into the mind of a nation on the brink of conflict. The narrative is complemented by a number of graphics, including images of the incident and maps showing the politics and intellectual geography of the era and how they were affected by the incident.

The author is the Walter Kenneth Mattison Professor of History at Furman.

Furman philanthropy

50 Ways to Help Furman

A how-to list for supporting the university

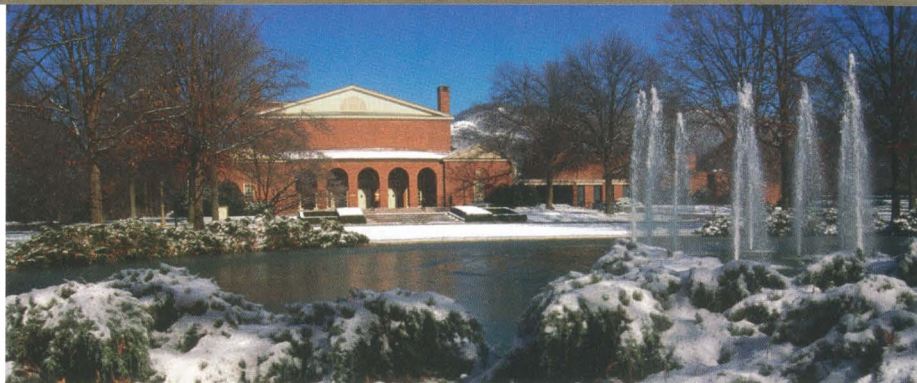
During a recent brainstorming session among members of the Furman development staff, we began discussing specific ways that alumni, friends, faculty and staff can help the university.

As the list began to grow, we realized that we had a pretty good story here — and an easy one to write. And we figured that if we published our own list, we could elicit even more ideas from Furman supporters.

So if you know of a way to help Furman that doesn't appear on this list, send it to Wayne King, director of annual giving, at wayne.king@furman.edu. We'll add it to the total — and file it away for future use.

That said, and with a tip of the cap to David Letterman (and maybe Paul Simon), here's our Top 50 list of "Ways to Help Furman."

1. Volunteer to be a class agent.
2. Send a note of appreciation to a favorite professor or staff member.
3. Attend a Furman athletic event.
4. Participate in a Furman Club event.
5. Help organize a Furman Club event.
6. Attend your next reunion (Homecoming '04 is November 5-7).
7. Volunteer to serve on your reunion planning committee.
8. Send a care package to a student.
9. Attend a Furman Singers concert.
10. Wear a purple tie to church.
11. Encourage a high school student to consider Furman.
12. Develop an internship for a student.
13. Be kind and encouraging to a phonathon student who calls you.
14. Participate in the Career Link program.
15. Put a Furman sticker on your car.
16. Support businesses that support Furman.
17. Wear purple fingernail polish.
18. Wear purple Converse All-Star high-tops.
19. Contribute to a scholarship that honors a favorite professor.
20. Invite Furman friends for dinner.
21. Serve purple jello with white marshmallows.
22. Say a prayer for Furman.
23. Tell a high school counselor about your Furman experience.



24. Send your child to school in a Furman shirt.
25. Place this magazine in the waiting room at your office.
26. Take advantage of your company's matching gift program when making a donation to Furman.
27. Include Furman in your will.
28. Explore the Furman Web site.
29. Display your Furman diploma.
30. Take a friend to campus.
31. Boast that Furman has the most beautiful campus in the nation.
32. Place a Furman picture on your wall at work and home.
33. Brag about the university's strong academic program.
34. Wear a Furman hat or shirt to your child's athletic events.
35. Sing "Brown Eyes" to your sweetheart. (We have the words if you need them.)
36. Vote during Alumni Board elections.
37. Take your baby to the mall in a Furman outfit.
38. Purchase Furman memorabilia from the university store.
39. Join a Furman gift society.
40. Send a copy of one of President David Shi's newspaper columns to a friend.
41. Send a note of encouragement to a student.
42. Always include purple when ordering flowers.
43. Take a friend on a tour of Cherrydale, the Alumni House.
44. Help a recent graduate find a job.
45. Set up an internship for a student.
46. Recommend a senior for graduate or professional school.

47. Attend a campus worship service.
48. Hand-pick purple M&M's. (You'll have to join the Color Quest first.)
49. Place a Furman tag on your car.

50 Participate in the Kohrt Challenge!

To expand on this last item . . .

Trustee Carl Kohrt '65 and his wife, Lynn McCartney Kohrt, have pledged up to \$1 million to support engaged-learning opportunities. Their pledge comes as a challenge to alumni.

If you have not made a donation to Furman this fiscal year (July 1-June 30), please join more than 8,000 alumni who have accepted the Kohrt Challenge and send your gift today. Carl and Lynn will respond as follows:

- For your gift of \$10 or more, they will donate \$100.
- If your donation is postmarked by March 31, they will add an additional \$50.
- If, compared to your last gift to Furman, you move to the next level of giving, they will add an additional \$100.

You can accept the challenge by sending your donation to the Office of Annual Giving, Furman University, Greenville, S.C. 29613; calling 1-800-787-7534; or visiting www.furman.edu/giving and clicking on the "Give Online" link.

— Wayne King
Director, Annual Giving

Family ties *Maude Hudson's Furman connections run deep*

When I first came to work at Furman in 1980, her grandson, Mike Harley '82, was president of the student body. He was the first student to welcome me to Furman.

Over the next few years, I met some of her other grandchildren — Deborah Harley Carico '85 and David Harley '88. Her son-in-law, Jimmie Harley '58, is now associate pastor of my church, Taylors First Baptist, where her daughter, Gayle Hudson Harley '58, sits a few seats down from me in the choir. Two other grandchildren, Rachel Harley and Rosanne Turner, are also church members, and Rosanne's parents, now deceased, were Tom and Sarah Atha Hudson Turner, both 1956 Furman graduates. Four years ago I met her son, J. Harold Hudson, Jr. '55, who was the photographer at my high school reunion.

Who is this individual with so many Furman connections? It's Maude Hunter Hudson, a 1926 graduate of Greenville Woman's College who celebrated her 101st birthday February 4 in the home she and her late husband, J. Harold Hudson '28, built in Greenville before their wedding in 1930.

Miss Maude's ties to Furman extend even deeper. She received a scholarship to attend GWC that led to a job in the office of President David Ramsay, who became a father figure to her. As graduation approached, she was offered two teaching positions — one in nearby Taylors and one in Powdersville. Instead, President Ramsay convinced her to take a full-time position in the GWC dean's office.

She met Harold while working at GWC, and one of their first dates was scheduled

the very day another suitor was taking her to a Christmas parade. The parade ended a little late — and Harold arrived a little early. Thinking quickly, Maude insisted that Date No. 1 let her out at the "east dorm door" so she could sneak in and freshen up without being seen by Harold. All seemed fine until she got into Harold's car — and promptly sat on his senior derby hat.

Evidently Harold forgave her, as he and Maude went on to be married on May 23, 1930, in the GWC Rose Garden. The Ramsays hosted the rehearsal dinner, and President Ramsay performed the ceremony.

Throughout the years, Maude Hudson has been a loyal Furman supporter who often entertains guests with stories from her college days. Furman president David Shi describes her as "a remarkable woman whose zest for life is infectious and who radiates hope and energy."

It seems fitting, too, that a woman who received a scholarship to attend college now has a scholarship named for her. The John Harold and Maude Hunter Hudson Scholarship is awarded annually to a Furman freshman who is hard-working, gracious and innovative — qualities exemplified by the Hudsons.

Susan Day Gray '78, director of stewardship at Furman, often accompanies recipients of the Hudson scholarship on visits to Miss Maude's home. Gray says, "Every time we see her, we're greeted with a big smile and a hug. Maude makes everyone feel welcome."

When I reflect on the hospitality Mike Harley extended to me 23 years ago and on my subsequent encounters with so many



Maude Hunter and Harold Hudson on their wedding day in 1930; Furman president David Shi helped Maude celebrate her 100th birthday last February.

members of his family, I realize that their graciousness and warmth is a family trait personified by Miss Maude. No doubt it will be passed on to the generations to come.

— **Wayne King**
Director, Annual Giving

To contribute to the John Harold and Maude Hunter Hudson Scholarship, contact Susan Gray at (864) 294-3716 or by e-mail, susan.gray@furman.edu.

University benefits from surge in support, growth in planned giving

During the latter part of 2003, a stronger economy and a significant increase in volunteer activity led to a surge of support for Furman.

As of December 31, the middle of Furman's fiscal year, the university's top gift societies — the Presidents Club (for donors of \$1,000 and more), Trustees Circle (\$2,500+), Founders Circle (\$5,000+) and Richard Furman Society (\$10,000+) — reported gains over 2002-03 in receipts and memberships. The work of Richard Furman Society chairs Jim '64 and Carol Nichols '67 Ney of Atlanta has brought in seven new memberships.

Foundation and government grants, mostly for student-faculty research, reached more than \$2.5 million this fall. The annual year-end grant from The Duke Endowment included \$1.9 million toward the foundation's \$9.5 million pledge for the renovation of the James B. Duke Library and \$100,000 for James B. Duke scholarships, plus

\$300,000 for the Northwest Crescent Center, with which Furman is affiliated.

In planned giving, estate plans in force and matured estate plans continued to grow. Most gifts of this type are added to the endowment, helping to fill Furman's greatest need.

This fall, an alumnus and his wife informed Furman that they have included students in the economics and business administration department in their will with a \$2 million bequest, and the widow of an alumnus endowed a scholarship for student-athletes in a trust, in the amount of \$100,000. These gifts bring the total in Furman's "planned gift pipeline" to more than \$98 million.

Carolyn L. Moseley '44 of Williamsburg, Va., bequeathed \$560,000 to permanently endow the Wilkes-Moseley Scholarship, which honors her parents and will assist students who show financial need, high moral character and academic

promise. In addition, Edna Gladden Hartness' \$500,000 bequest to Furman will be used to provide a discretionary fund for the president and to endow the Edna Hartness Garden near Cherrydale.

I. Lee Arnold, a physician from Chattanooga, Tenn., was a Furman parent and grandparent. His family includes son Coleman Arnold '69, daughter Jane Arnold Barnhill '72 and grandchildren Allison Arnold '97, Ben Barnhill '98, Justin Arnold '00 and Emily Barnhill '00. Years ago he established a charitable remainder trust, which was added to Furman's endowment at his death in August 2003 and created the I. Lee Arnold Scholarship for students planning to attend medical school.

To learn more about becoming part of the ongoing growth in support for Furman, visit www.furman.edu/giving.

— **Don Lineback**
Vice President for Development

Furmanathletics

A dog's life

Football team's honorary mascot is top canine on campus

Furman has a strict policy when it comes to animals on campus: No pets allowed, unless they're on a leash.

But when Blade, a fox-red Labrador retriever, makes his early-morning rounds near Timmons Arena and Cherrydale, Public Safety officers look the other way. They understand that Blade, a well-trained 11-year-old, is the exception to the rule.

Impounding the beloved canine, in fact, could cause a minor riot.

As the unofficial mascot of the football team, Blade is the top dog on campus. Football equipment manager Spear Sedgley, who has worked at Furman since 1989, says the team adopted Blade shortly after he brought the puppy to work in 1992.

"He really belongs to the players," says Sedgley. "I just house and feed him."

Trained to bark at the mention of "Furman football," Blade has not missed a practice in more than a decade. Dutifully, he remains beyond the painted sidelines, waiting for the coach's long whistle that signals the end of practice.

Then, like a puppy, he bounds onto the field to join the squad. Blade likes to fetch, as most Labs do, and he loves the water. So after retrieving the drill cones from the practice field, he joins the team for a much anticipated hot shower.

It's a strange sight, admits Sedgley. But it illustrates the affection the team has for Blade.

"He is probably the most loved dog in the world," says Sedgley.

In 1998, after the athletic department received complaints about the on-campus behavior of other staff-owned dogs, John Block, then the vice president for inter-collegiate athletics, issued an edict: Leave your pets at home.

But soon after Blade stopped coming to campus, the football team circulated a petition to have the Labrador "reinstated." Every player signed it.

The dog's reunion with the team was like a scene out of a Disney movie.

As practice ended one afternoon, Block called the team together to announce that Blade would be allowed back on campus. The players erupted in applause — and the celebration grew louder as Sedgley's truck



Blade's pride in Paladin football is evident in his choice of apparel. Below: Blade takes a break after helping equipment manager Spear Sedgley prepare for spring football practice.

turned onto the road separating the stadium from the Lay Physical Activities Center and came into view. In the back was Blade, barking at the sight of the team.

"He never barks when he's in the back of the truck," says Sedgley. "But he did then. I guess he knew what was happening."

Barreling down the hill leading to the field, Blade was reunited with the team. Since then, he has seldom left the players' sides, except for football games when Sedgley is too busy repairing and replacing equipment to supervise him.

Not that Blade really needs to be watched. Word is that the dog has misbehaved only once.

During a scrimmage in Paladin Stadium several years ago, Blade spotted a stray dog wandering along the opposite sideline and darted across the field to chase off the trespasser. Former head coach Bobby Johnson, a stern, no-nonsense taskmaster, went ballistic. "Get that dog off the field!" he bellowed.

Now that Johnson has moved on to



Vanderbilt, Sedgley jokes that he and the coaching staff can laugh at the memory.

During the off-season, Blade spends most of his days shadowing Sedgley and napping. Although advancing arthritis and colder weather have limited the dog's activity in recent weeks, Sedgley says Blade is counting the days until March, when spring drills begin and the players return.

— John Roberts

Following the rules

As associate director of athletics and compliance director at Furman since 1989, John Burns has been able to combine his love for sports with his talent for administrative oversight and appreciation for order.

Indeed, throughout his 33 years in higher education, Burns has held jobs that have played to his strengths: coach, admissions counselor, financial aid director. But the position he will retire from in May has been his favorite, because it immerses him in athletics and satisfies his need to organize.

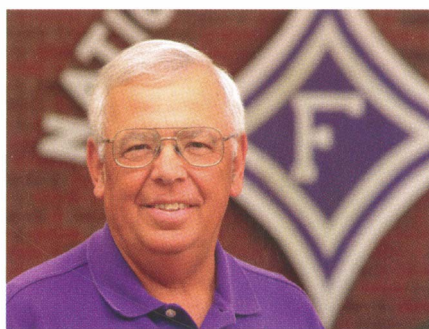
At Furman, Burns' job is to make sure that the athletic program, with its 30 coaches and 320 athletes, operates within NCAA rules. Since he assumed the job, Furman has been guilty of only a handful of secondary NCAA violations. Burns describes them as minor, self-reported offenses, such as when a coach buys a meal for a recruit off-campus when NCAA rules stipulate that prospective players can receive free meals on campus only.

"We've always been very fortunate at Furman because we have good coaches who want to run programs by the rules rather than trying to find ways around them," says Burns. "And we have great students who are motivated athletically and academically."

In a job that requires him to scrutinize coaches and their activities, Burns' sense of humor and easy-going personality are his greatest assets. Says athletic director Gary Clark, "John ensures that Furman follows the rules, but he does it in such a way to let everyone know that he is in their corner. He doesn't act like a barking traffic cop. He has a great rapport with our coaches."

A native of Kansas, Burns attended McPherson College, where he played football. He joined the Air Force in 1961, serving in Japan and in Vietnam as a navigator and radio operator on large supply planes. After leaving the service in 1966, he earned a master's degree in business management at the University of Colorado.

Burns works to ensure that coaches, fans adhere to NCAA guidelines



John Burns will retire this spring after 20 years at Furman.

While at Colorado, Burns decided to visit the athletic department and ask for a part-time job as a graduate assistant. A few months later he was offered a job breaking down game film for the football team. He also helped coach the defensive backs and kick return team.

"I really had a great time," Burns says. "I learned a lot about administration and enjoyed the interaction with students."

After earning his master's degree, Burns returned to McPherson as an admissions counselor and assistant basketball and football coach. A chance reunion with an old high school friend who was working at the College of Charleston led Burns to coastal South Carolina in 1972, when he was named director of financial aid at the college. He came to Furman in 1984 as associate director of financial aid and six months later was promoted to director, a post he held for four years before moving to athletics.

As director of compliance, Burns deals not only with coaches and athletes but with alumni, supporters and friends of the university — all of whom are also bound by NCAA rules and regulations. He has compiled a guide to help Paladin fans understand what they can and cannot do to support the university's athletic program.

As he says in the forward to the pamphlet, "Furman's reputation is one of upholding the highest degree of academic

and athletic integrity. This tradition can continue only if alumni and friends of the university are well-informed about NCAA rules and regulations that apply to 'representatives of athletic interests'."

— John Roberts

See the accompanying article for an excerpt from A Rules and Regulations Guide for Alumni and Friends of Furman Athletics. For a copy, contact Burns at (864) 294-2163 or by e-mail, john.burns@furman.edu.

Rules to remember

John Burns, Furman's director of compliance, cautions that before you talk with a prospective student-athlete, you should contact the Furman athletic department to make sure you are not in violation of NCAA regulations.

Some rules to remember:

- Only a coach or a university staff member can be involved in the recruiting process.
- Alumni, friends and other representatives of athletic interests who are employed by Furman are prohibited from making contact (in person or by phone, fax or letter) with a prospect, or the prospect's family, for the purpose of encouraging his/her participation in athletics at Furman.
- If a non-permissible contact is made with a prospect, even if unintentional, the eligibility of the prospect could be affected. In addition, the NCAA could impose penalties on Furman.
- A prospect remains a prospect even after he/she signs a National Letter of Intent and thus remains subject to all recruiting rules.

School names stadium in memory of Howard and John Bagwell

Fort Dorchester High School in North Charleston, S.C., has memorialized the contributions of Howard Bagwell '48 and his son, John Bagwell '89, to the school's athletic program.

During ceremonies October 31, the school announced that its football stadium will henceforth be known as Bagwell Stadium in honor of the two men. As a member of the Dorchester District II school board, the elder Bagwell was a leader in the de-

velopment of the school's athletic complex. His son was the school's first football coach and compiled a 65-56 record in 10 years.

Howard Bagwell died in July of 2002, and John Bagwell was killed in an automobile accident in December of 2002.

The elder Bagwell was athletic director at Charleston Southern University for 35 years and is the winningest track and field coach in the school's history. John Bagwell was an all-Southern Conference tailback

at Furman, where he ranks 17th on the all-time rushing list. He was a member of the 1988 NCAA I-AA national champions.

At the ceremonies, the high school also unveiled a marble monument that will serve as a permanent reminder of the two men and their legacy. Thirty-two red, white and blue balloons, representing the number John Bagwell wore during his high school and college days, were released during the event.

Furman alumni news

Reunions spark special moments

Since joining the staff of the Alumni Office eight months ago, I have been truly impressed by the genuine love and commitment Furman alumni have for their alma mater.

After working on my first Homecoming, I am excited about the opportunity to help plan reunion events for Homecoming 2004, November 5-7. This year, alumni in classes ending in 4 and 9 will celebrate special reunions.

Class reunions are a great way to maintain or rekindle ties with old friends and to remember how Furman has made a difference in your life and the lives of your classmates. Because Homecoming represents the largest gathering of the Furman faithful in one place each year, it is a wonderful occasion for reuniting and reminiscing.

Heartwarming stories often emerge during reunions. For example, at Homecoming 2003 James McKittrick of Simpsonville, S.C., and M.O. Owens of Gastonia, N.C., returned to share memories about their senior year as roommates — 70 years ago!

The Class of 1978 also had a special reunion story — which actually began with Jennie Brown from the Class of '94. On a trip to meet members of her boyfriend's family, she learned that his uncle, Wayne Coley, was a 1978 Furman graduate. Wayne, who now lives in Texas, ran cross country and track at Furman and won the Athlete of the Year Award as a senior.

A few years ago Wayne lost his award, along with many other personal effects, in a house fire. Insurance covered most items, but not the award. So Jennie contacted alumni director Tom Triplitt '76 to ask about getting a replacement.

After Jennie sent an old newspaper article about Wayne's award, Tom visited a local trophy shop to have it re-created. When he arrived,



he found Wayne's former high school coach working at the shop! Not only that, but the Class of '78 reunion chairs, Ed and Tricia Toole Boehmke, were two of Wayne's good friends. So Jennie's desire to help a future in-law quickly became a group effort.

In the end, no one was more surprised (or touched) than Wayne when Ed Boehmke presented him a new Athlete of the Year Award at his reunion dinner. It was an easy thing to do, but it was just one example of how the Furman family looks after its own.

The Alumni Office can help make your class reunion a memorable one as well, but we need your help. That's why we invite volunteers from each class to plan their Homecoming activities. Reunion committee members work closely with the Alumni Office to contact classmates, share ideas and make arrangements.

And if you're not sure what to do, don't worry! Training will be provided in March for those interested in serving on a committee.

The Alumni Office handles all the mailings, printing and details for each event — we just need your ideas. So help us plan the best reunions ever at Homecoming 2004!

— Jane Dungan
Associate Director, Alumni Programs

To volunteer to work on your reunion committee, call Jane Dungan at 1-800-787-7533 or e-mail jane.dungan@furman.edu.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Web page features new look

Check out www.furman.edu/alumni/index.htm, where you'll discover our revamped Alumni Association Web page! We think you'll find it easier to read and to navigate.

Along with the new look are several new features, including a "Spotlight" section. If you have any photos of special personal events — weddings, babies, anniversaries — send them along and we'll post them on the site for all the world to view!

You can e-mail digital photos to Melanie Krone '94, associate director of the Alumni Association, at melanie.krone@furman.edu.

Furman Clubs on the move (as usual)

Congratulations to the 2003 Furman Club award winners:

Furman Club of the Year: Capital Area Club (District of Columbia), led by president Lindsay Blankenship '00 and co-president Elizabeth Holt '97.

Furman Club President of the Year: David Cobb '90 of the Charleston (S.C.) Club.

Speaking of Charleston, the annual Christmas Holiday Gala at The Governor's House Inn (owned by Karen Spell Shaw '80) had a record number of alumni, parents and Furman staff members in attendance. Other special winter events included a January trip to Miami by John Barker, director of career services, for a career networking happy hour.

The Atlanta Club got together for dinner and a good cause, as members sorted items donated to St. Vincent De Paul, an outreach organization for the impoverished. The Dallas Furman Club welcomed President David Shi to a dinner in February, and the Seattle Club also got together for dinner. The Charleston and Charlotte clubs both turned out in force to cheer on the men's basketball team when the Paladins came to their areas for games against The Citadel and Davidson, respectively.

Some Furman club events to watch for this spring:

■ The Atlanta Furman Club will join with Georgia State University for a career networking happy hour.

■ The Capital Area Club will enjoy a tour of the National Gallery of Art.

■ The Charlotte Furman Club will join forces with the Paladin Club for a golf tournament.

■ While Furman students enjoy May Day Play Day on campus, Furman Clubs across the country will participate on May 1 in volunteer projects as well.

For an up-to-date listing of Furman Club events, please visit the Alumni Association Web page. To learn more about what Furman Clubs have to offer, e-mail Melanie Krone or call her at 1-800-PURPLE3.

CLASS NOTES WINTER 2004

54

This year is reunion!

Robert E. Cashion, who retired after 45 years in Greenville County Schools, was formally honored December 18 when Robert E. Cashion Elementary School was dedicated. The new school in southern Greenville County replaces East Gantt Elementary, which Cashion served for many years as its only principal. ■ **Donny Wilder**, former publisher-editor of the *Clinton (S.C.) Chronicle* and a past member of the South Carolina General Assembly, received an honorary degree from Presbyterian College at the school's opening convocation September 9.

56

Next reunion in 2006

Ron Hyatt has relinquished his longtime role of faculty marshal at the University of North Carolina but remains on the faculty of the Department of Exercise and Sports Science. He is also a retired colonel in the North Carolina National Guard. ■ **Kay McGee Phillips** retired December 1 after 19 years of service to the residents and staff of Salemtowne, the Moravian Retirement Community, in Winston-Salem, N.C. She had been president and chief executive officer of Salemtowne since 1996.

57

Next reunion in 2007

Jeffrey Willis, Helmus Professor of History at Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C., is the author of *Remembering Greenville: Photographs from the Coxe Collection*.

58

Next reunion in 2008

Wilfred Platt, Jr., of Macon, Ga., has retired from the Mercer University Department of

History but continues as director of the Honors Program for the school's College of Liberal Arts.

60

Next reunion in 2005

Helen Fincher is president of the Gainesville-Hall Convention & Visitors Bureau in Gainesville, Ga. She was formerly executive director of tourism bureaus in the Georgia counties of Augusta-Richmond and Helen-White.

61

Next reunion in 2006

Having retired from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, **James McElveen** is now teaching eighth-grade English at Kilmer Middle School in Vienna, Va.

62

Next reunion in 2007

Charles Hughes has joined Arthur State Bank as vice president and manager of the Augusta Road branch in Greenville.

66

Next reunion in 2006

Charles E. Carpenter, Jr., a shareholder in the Columbia, S.C., law firm of Richardson, Plowden, Carpenter & Robinson, P.A., was recently elected secretary of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. ■ **MARRIAGE: Judith Babb Chandler** and Rupert Huse, November 28. Judith recently retired as director of the Bridges to a Brighter Future program at Furman.

70

Next reunion in 2005

Thomas Harper of Jacksonville, Fla., is co-founder of the Harper Gerlach Law Firm, which focuses on employment, labor, and wage and hour law.

73

Next reunion in 2008

Gale Kimball Garner is director of Christian education at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Mauldin, S.C. ■ **Frances Smith Ligler**, senior scientist at the Naval Research Laboratory in the Center for Bio/Molecular Science and Engineering in Washington, D.C., received the 2003 Homeland Security Award from the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, a federal agency that supports groundbreaking research. Ligler, a member of the Furman board of trustees, was cited for her work on ultrasensitive detectors for biological threats. ■

Katherine Wells has become staff attorney with the South Carolina Senate Judiciary Committee in Columbia.

74

This year is reunion!

Phillip and **Susan Traylor Cooley** live in Salisbury, N.C., where Susan is a clinical social worker at the Veterans Medical Center. Phillip owns and operates Homewatch Caregivers Home Health Agency in Charlotte. ■ **Karen Herring Harmon**, choral director at Irmo (S.C.) High School, directed the Adult Choir of Singles from the Dioceses of South Carolina for South Carolina Day November 16 at the Washington National Cathedral. ■ The board of directors of Westminster John Knox Press has established the WJK Presidential Prize for Excellence in Religious Scholarship and Writing to honor **Davis Perkins**, president and publisher of WJK's parent organization, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. The award will recognize writers and scholars who show promise of making a major contribution to religious scholarship. Davis has spent more than 25 years in the publishing business. ■ **Robert Walker**

of Columbia, S.C., is president of the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

75

Next reunion in 2005

Linda Wilson Hindman (B.G.S. '99) is assistant business manager for Christ Church Episcopal School in Greenville. ■ **Joe Watson**, a former Circuit Court judge and former solicitor for the 13th Circuit of South Carolina, recently became counsel with Price, Paschal & Ashmore PA in Greenville. ■ **BIRTH: Audrey and John Bettger** (M.B.A.), a son, Marcus Matthias, October 8.

76

Next reunion in 2006

Van White of Orlando, Fla., has been promoted to executive vice president by SunTrust Bank. He is senior credit officer for the 11-county Central Florida Region.

77

Next reunion in 2007

Keith Aarseth of Aurora, Ill., is an options trader at the Chicago Board of Trade.

78

Next reunion in 2008

Ed and **Tricia Toole Boehmke** are teachers in Greenville County. Ed teaches science, coaches cross country and track, and serves as assistant athletic director at Eastside High School, where he has worked since graduation. Tricia is an elementary school physical education teacher and has previously been an assistant principal and a principal. ■ **John Cole** recently opened his second veterinary hospital in Loveland, Ohio. ■ After 24 years in the ministry at various churches, **Jim Mathis** of Lexington, S.C., has become a professional speaker, corporate seminar leader and consultant.

79

This year is reunion!

Norman (Chip) Buddin of Wilmington, N.C., is laboratory manager for Global Nuclear Fuel-Americas. ■ **Charles Rogers** of Duluth, Ga., is owner and president of Live Oak Builders, Inc., a residential development and construction company.

80

Next reunion in 2005

Robert Rook is an associate professor and chair of the history department at Fort Hays (Kan.) State University. ■ **David Smith** is band director at Morris Middle School in McAllen, Texas.

81

Next reunion in 2006

Mike Roosevelt was recently named chief of the Assessments Group in the CIA's Crime and Narcotics Center. His wife, **Jane Doussard '82 Roosevelt**, has begun a two-year National Institutes of Health fellowship in developmental psychopathology at the George Washington University Medical Center in Washington, D.C. ■ After almost 15 years with the Missouri Baptist Convention as a media specialist, **Ken Satterfield** of Jefferson City has become advertising and subscription coordinator for the Missouri Baptist newspaper *Word & Way*. ■ **Donna Daniel Teague** is author of a cookbook titled *We Gather Together: Recipes for Church, Family and Civic Events*. Some of Donna's recipes were featured in the November issue of *Southern Living*. ■ **MARRIAGE: Thomas Fisher** and Martha Reynolds, July 5, Hamilton, N.Y. They live in Cambridge, Mass., where he is a senior engineer in the microelectronics division of Rohm and Haas Electronics Materials.

82

Next reunion in 2007

Paul '83 and Angie Hendrix Harteg live in Greenville. She is a senior software analyst with the Greenville Hospital System and he is a consultant in the financial services division of Crisp Hughes & Evans. ■ **Brooke Handspicker Kelly** of Cary, N.C., is a compensation consultant with Bayer Corporation. ■ **Maggie Long McGill** has joined the law firm of Cadwalader, Wickersham and Taft in Rock Hill, S.C., as a legal assistant in banking and finance. ■ **MARRIAGE: James Leach** and Melissa Mummert, November 29. James recently earned a second Master of Divinity degree from Starr King School for the Ministry and is now pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte, N.C.

83

Next reunion in 2008

Brenda Bossard Osborne received a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Clemson University and is now a clinical counselor at the Abbeville (S.C.) Mental Health Center. ■ **Robert Watson**, a liaison officer with the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, Germany, has received a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the U.S. Army War College. ■ **BIRTH: Christopher** and Lisa Peabody, a daughter, Caroline Christine, January 24, 2003, Bethesda, Md.

84

This year is reunion!

Susan Williamson DeVenny is the new director of First Steps, South Carolina's early childhood development program. She founded Parents for Public Schools in South Carolina and formerly served as assistant vice president of human resources at Colonial Life and Accident Insurance Company. ■ **Charles Hunter** of Woodbridge, Va., is Deputy Director Refund Crimes

for the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation. ■ **Scott Lenning** has received the Anderson College Distinguished Alumnus Award, presented to an alumnus who exemplifies the educational philosophy of the college. Scott is director for the Billy Graham Crusades. ■ **Cindy Roberts Percy** of San Antonio, Texas, is a management consultant with BearingPoint. ■ **Bond Porter** of Gray, Tenn., works for a radio station and also operates a rental-house business. ■ **Bonnie Borshay Sneed**, an associate professor of choral music at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, has been named the school's new choral director. ■ **Elliott Strait** is director of the pharmacy at Chester County (S.C.) Hospital. ■ **Brian Warford** is vice president and general manager of Nicholson's Hi-Fi in Nashville, Tenn. He is also the assistant conductor for the Nashville Symphony Chorus. ■ **BIRTH: Don** and Barbara Law, a daughter, Rachel Julia, March 23, 2003, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

85

Next reunion in 2005

Karen Horn Carney works as a CPA with the firm of Stowe and Stowe in Norcross, Ga., specializing in accounting for dental practices. ■ **Kelley Krokos** has earned a Ph.D. in industrial and organizational psychology from North Carolina State University. ■ **Ann Fornoff Moore** has joined Sherbert & Associates, a Greenville-area human resources consulting firm, as an education consultant. ■ **Jamie Rogers** lives in Cartersville, Ga., and works with Kinkos. ■ **BIRTH: David '86 and Susan Lewis Ellis**, a daughter, Lila Elizabeth, June 21, Naples, Fla. David is executive vice president of the Collier Building Industry Association and Susan is the national sales manager for Global Associates, Inc., a retail manufacturer's firm specializing in the military.

86

Next reunion in 2006

Bryan Holt of Longmont, Colo., is senior project manager for IBM Global Services. ■ **Preston Smith** appeared on NBC's "Today Show" December 23, playing piano and conducting The Boy and Girl Choristers of Saint Bartholomew's Church in New York City, where he was recently named associate director of music. He previously served as organist and choir-master at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in Tampa, Fla., and was a part-time instructor at the University of Tampa. ■ **Deanna Womack** is a registered nurse at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

2003-2004 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ahoy, mateys!

Children's book rides crest of pirate mania onto best-seller charts

Melinda Brown Long says the secret to the success of her latest children's book, *How I Became a Pirate*, is the same as the secret to good comedy: It's all in the timing.

Long, a 1982 Furman graduate who says she's been fascinated by pirates since childhood, chose to explore the topic through the tale of young Jeremy Jacob and his encounter with a horde of not so bright but oh so earnest pirates. Jeremy thrills to their

swashbuckling, free-spirited, no-rules lifestyle — until he realizes what he's missing back home.

The book, cunningly illustrated by Caldecott Honor-winner David Shannon, was published by Harcourt, Inc., on September 1

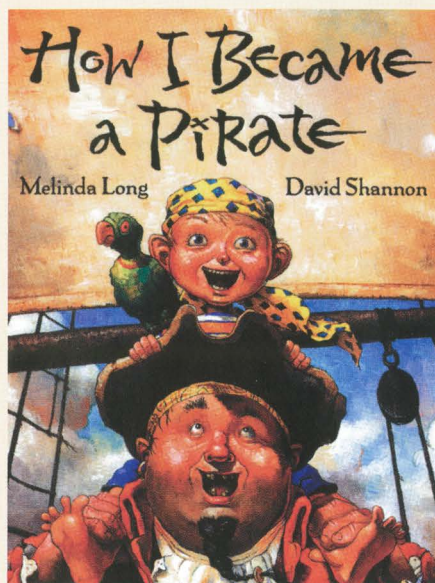


Melinda Long

— which is where the timing comes in.

First, one of the summer's hit movies was *Pirates of the Caribbean*, a rollicking story of hijinks on the high seas that starred heartthrobs Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom. Then, with the help of a boost from syndicated columnist Dave Barry, "Talk Like a Pirate Day" on September 19 (same date every year, me hearties) drew widespread attention, including a feature on National Public Radio. And just one day earlier, on September 18, the seventh incarnation of "Survivor" premiered on CBS with a pirate theme — even though Rupert, the cast member who most looked the part, eventually walked the plank.

The result of this harmonic convergence of pirate mania and the release of Long's book? Through Christmas, *How I Became a Pirate* had spent 11 weeks in the Top 10 on the children's books best-seller list of the *New York Times*, alongside



books by such notables as Lewis Carroll, J.K. Rowling, Dr. Seuss and Madonna.

"Suddenly, pirates are hot," Long says with a trace of wonder. "And it's great that we happened to publish at the same time."

For Long, an eighth-grade language arts teacher at Tanglewood Middle School in Greenville, *Pirate* is her most successful book to date. Having previously produced *When Papa Snores* (2000, Simon & Schuster) and *Hickup Snickup* (2001, Simon & Schuster), she seems to have the children's book formula down pat.

She traces the start of her writing career to a rainy day when she was 6 years old — and a moment of inspiration on her mother's part. After hearing quite enough of Melinda's complaints about being bored, crafty Mom grabbed a typewriter, placed her daughter in front of it, handed her a pile of rubber stamps with animal characters on them

and said, "Here. Write a story about these things."

Which the youngster proceeded to do. And she's been writing ever since.

When she started writing seriously, Long says, "I tried everything — short stories, poems, romances, you name it. But I kept coming back to children's books." She says she always had a knack for making up stories, and her interest was further piqued at Furman in a children's literature course taught by Nelly Hecker, who now chairs the education department. "She was a great teacher who made those stories come alive," says Long.

Long actually signed with an agent in 1986, but it wasn't until 1997 that *When Papa Snores* sold. *Hickup Snickup* and *Pirate* followed in short order.

Once a publisher buys a children's book, Long says, it can take three years or more for it to be published. "You've got production work, and the rough sketches of the art work, and constant revisions, both to the text and the art," she says. "It can take a while, but it's really fun to watch each book progress and come together."

Seeing how the illustrator, whom the publisher chooses, interprets her words is also a treat, she says: "It's amazing how sometimes the artist almost reads my mind and produces an illustration that exactly matches the way I envisioned the scene."

While she has ideas for more children's books targeted to the preschool and early elementary years, Long also aspires to write for a slightly older crowd. She is working on a historical novel, designed for middle and high school students and based on old family tales, about a Southern girl's experiences at the onset of World War II.

"I'm hoping to have a chance to work on it during the summer," she says.

— Jim Stewart

■ **MARRIAGE:** David Allan Baillie and Jenny Latania Rakotoharisolo, June 19 in Antananarivo, Madagascar, and July 5 in Gaffney, S.C. David is director of athletics at Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky. ■ **BIRTH:** Steven and Kay Adams, a son, Thomas James, August 21, San Ramon, Calif.

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Next reunion in 2007

Tim Gaffney of Birmingham, Mich., has been promoted to vice president of the Eastern region for Automotive Marketing Consultants, Inc. (AMCI). He is also a race-car driver for Team Lexus in the Grand Am

Cup. ■ **Ken Watson** of Kennesaw, Ga., is a senior software developer with Universal Tax Systems, a tax software company. ■ **Michael Wollinger** has been elected senior vice president at First Citizen Bank in Hendersonville, N.C. ■ **BIRTH:** Gary and Kelly Fryda '88 Lee, a son, Jacob James,

January 10, 2003, Kennesaw, Ga. Gary is chief executive officer of the Atlanta-based FlexLight Networks.

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Next reunion in 2008

Vern Bahm is an operations research analyst in the U.S. Army and is stationed at Fort

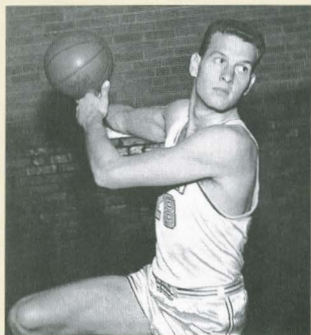
Selvy named to list of greatest college stars

Street & Smith's Magazine has included Furman's Frank Selvy in its rankings of the 100 Greatest College Basketball Players.

Selvy, who was named the NCAA Player of the Year in 1954 after averaging a nation's best 41.7 points per game, was rated the 50th greatest player by the magazine, which many consider the leading authority on college basketball. The rankings were compiled from nominations submitted by a blue-ribbon, 40-person panel of college basketball writers, coaches and broadcasters. Each panelist completed a top-50 ballot, from which the full list was tabulated.

The magazine issued the rankings in a special collector's edition, published in December.

Selvy, a native of Corbin, Ky., set an NCAA Division I record on February 13, 1954, when he scored 100 points in a 149-95 win over Newberry at Greenville's Textile Hall. Twice the national scoring champion,



he set 24 major college records during his Furman years and was a three-time All-American.

After graduating in 1954, Selvy was the first pick (by the Baltimore Bullets) in the National Basketball Association draft and went on to play professionally for nine years, the last five with the Minneapolis and Los

Angeles Lakers. He averaged 10.8 points per game for his pro career.

Furman recognized the 50th anniversary of Selvy's 100-point game February 21 during the Paladins' game against The Citadel.

Street & Smith's named Lew Alcindor (later Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) of UCLA the greatest all-time college player, followed, in order, by fellow UCLA star Bill Walton, Oscar Robertson of the University of Cincinnati, Bill Russell of the University of San Francisco and Pete Maravich of Louisiana State.

Letter: Selvy story rekindles memories

Just a note of thanks for the story on Frank Selvy ("Man of the Century") in the Fall 2003 *Furman* magazine. The article brought back a lot of memories of that "magic game" when Selvy scored 100 points, and of my days at Furman.

Over the years I have discovered that most everyone in Greenville County apparently witnessed that glorious feat in the old Textile Hall. My dad, who was then head golf professional at the Greenville Country Club, and I were in attendance as well. Although I was sitting in the rafters, I can still vividly see Frank leave the floor at the top of the opponent's key to begin his one-handed push shot, and then let go just before reaching half court. As I recall, the buzzer sounded immediately after the ball had begun its flight. Swish. The hall rocked.

But there is more. After a tour in the military I transferred to Furman in 1963 from what was then North Greenville Junior

College. Furman had a golf course that was going to seed and was not planning to have a golf team that year. I lobbied for one and was told that if I could assemble a team the university would approve. I first approached fraternity brothers (Centaur) and eventually produced a motley band. Frank Keener '64 was designated our captain. We had no coach. The directors at the Greenville Country Club kindly allowed us to play our matches there.

I was selected team captain the following year. Again we played our matches at the Greenville Country Club, and Frank Selvy was our coach. He is a true gentleman, and the qualities of character that he left me with I now realize were instrumental in my own development. I have met few that surpass him as a human being.

— **Michael Lucas '65**
North Charleston, S.C.

Leavenworth, Kan. ■ **Kimberly Chappell** has moved to Roswell, Ga., after accepting a position with Bristol-Squibb Company as the neuroscience medical science manager in the Atlanta area. ■ **Kevin Hendricks** has joined the Wyche, Burgess, Freeman & Parham, P.A., law firm in Greenville. He will concentrate his practice in corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions. ■ **Anthony Jones** is a counselor at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, N.C. ■ **BIRTHS:** **Alex** and **Laura Albert**, a son, McConnell Russell, August 8, Washington, D.C. ■ **Kevin** and **Rosemarie Ann Baloy Curley**, a son, Brian Michael, June 1, Midlothian, Va. ■ **Jeff** and **Karen Meade Farris**, a daughter, Hannah, October 6, Flower Mound, Texas. ■ **Dan** and **Paige Overton Pitts**, a son, Tait Daniel, August 20. ■ **Scott** and **Mary Spear Prentice**, a daughter, Michelle Louise, January 15, 2003, Frederick, Md. ■ **Michael** and **Anne Noble Smith**, a daughter, Ashley Marie, August 21, Chatham, N.J.

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This year is reunion!

Jason Davis of Norcross, Ga., is employed with Scott, Madden & Associates. ■ **Steven House** and his wife, Alice, are assistant professors in the Department of Family Medicine at Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, Ga. ■ **David** and **Emilie McDonald Woody** have moved to Mount Pleasant, S.C. David is minister of faith development at Providence Baptist Church and Emilie teaches at Wando High School. ■ **BIRTHS:** **Jim** and **Melissa Adair**, a son, Stephen, August 26. Jim is an environmental systems engineer with Cryovac in Simpsonville, S.C. ■ **Peter** and **Deborah Lamb Farrell**, a son, Andrew Scott, May 14, Charleston, S.C. Deborah is the guidance director at James Island Charter High School. ■ **James** and **Lanie Rockafellow Kitchens**, a son, William James III, December 15, 2002, Columbia, S.C. ■

Steve and **Patti Cox Mayo**, twin daughters, Kathryn Maureen and Lillian Grace, June 4, Charlotte, N.C. ■ **James and Shannon Duval Meade**, a daughter, Emma, March 21, 2003, Madison, Wis. Shannon has received tenure and been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Philosophy at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, Wis. ■ **Bob and Kelly Cole Spratling**, a son, Jonathan Todd, June 6, Atlanta.

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Next reunion in 2005

Elton and Amy Williamson Bailey live in Parker, Colo. He is operations business manager with Arrow Electronics. ■ **Edwin Beckham** of Roswell, Ga., is a staff analyst with RWD Technologies. ■ **Frank Blackwell** has joined ScanSource Inc. in Greenville as sales manager for the point-of-sale and automatic identification and data capture sales unit. ■ **Scott Boyles** of Thorofare, N.J., is Northeast regional director of Christian Medical and Dental Associations. ■ **Fe Cowan** is a teacher and coach at T.L. Hanna High School in Anderson, S.C. ■ **David Salmon** of Locust Grove, Ga., is regional manager-genetic analysis for Transgenomic, Inc. ■ **BIRTHS:** **Robert and Elizabeth Johnson**, a daughter, Molly Elizabeth, December 30, 2002, Smithfield, Va. ■ **Andrew and Laura Murphy**, twin daughters, Alexandra Jewel and Katherine Alison, October 28, 2002. Andrew, who works with Wealth Management Deutsche Bank in Atlanta, recently graduated from Georgia State University's Executive M.B.A. Program. ■ **Anthony and Andrea Miller Von Aldenbruck**, a son, Alec Preston, May 20, Jensen Beach, Fla. ■ **Erik and Jennifer Wells**, a daughter, Zoe Sarelyn, June 3, Bogart, Ga. Erik is a dentist. ■ **Blake and Tracy Watkins Young**, a son, Justin Tyler, May 12, Knoxville, Tenn. Tracy is vice president of marketing with Team Health.

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Next reunion in 2006

Tracy Jones Barnhart of Mount Pleasant, S.C., is a hydrogeologist with General Engineering. ■ **Michael Bellon** is a music teacher at Mill Creek Elementary School in Columbia, S.C. ■ **Randall David Cook** of New York City was a finalist in the 2003 Sundance Filmmakers Lab competition for his screenplay "Revelation." His play "Beneath the Banyan Tree" premiered at New York's Abingdon Theatre last spring, and his "American Idle: Murdering the Music," a parody of the television show, has been published by Brooklyn Publishers and produced in Nova Scotia. He is co-author of "Open Call," a "theatrical event" that premiered in New York's Hamptons in September and then transferred off-Broadway for an open-ended run. ■ **Katherine Komarow Durst** of Largo, Fla., was recently named manager of the Ultimate Body-Shaping Course of Belleair, a fitness/kickboxing facility. She also earned her first-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. ■ **Ken Ellison** of Highland Park, N.J., is pursuing a D.M.A. in clarinet performance at Rutgers University. He is the founder of Sonora Winds, a trio with bassoon, clarinet and flute that recently presented a concert series in Philadelphia. He performs on the soundtrack to "Bad Hair Life," a well-received Middlemarch Films documentary about people who suffer from trichotillomania (compulsive hair pulling). ■ **Chris Ferrell** is president of Executive Learning, Inc., a training firm in Nashville, Tenn. He recently completed his second term on the Nashville City Council. ■ **Cathi Douglas Jones** of Cumming, Ga., is an instructional support teacher at South Forsyth High School. ■ **Brian Sloop** of Columbia, S.C., is a financial services product associate with State Farm Insurance Company in its field office in Lexington, S.C. He assists about 45 State

Farm agents with introducing financial products into their marketing/business plan. ■ **MARRIAGES:** **Melanie Dyer** and George Andrew McGehee, April 6. Melanie is a freelance writer and Andrew works for Westinghouse as a nuclear safety engineer. They live in North Augusta, S.C. ■ **Tracey Weldon** and Cuthbert Stewart, August 30. She is an assistant professor of English at the University of South Carolina. ■ **BIRTHS:** **Evan and Shannon Brooks**, a son, Wyatt Franklin, October 17. ■ **Andrew and Stacy Nations** '93 **Burr**, a son, Casey David, August 5, 2002. Stacy earned her Ph.D. in early childhood education and is currently on the faculty at Clemson University. Andrew is an assistant coach for the Furman women's soccer team. ■ **Andrew and Joy Erwin** '92 **Coe**, a daughter, Sarah Anne Aderholdt, February 13, 2003, South Boston, Va. ■ **Christopher and Marla Doebring**, a daughter, Emily Helen, March 12, 2003. After four years in the Army, Christopher is now on the family practice residency faculty at St. Francis Hospital in Indianapolis, Ind. ■ **Bobby and Natalie Huberdeau Doerr**, a son, Jack, September 17. ■ **David and Martha Pinilla Flory**, a daughter, Ava Grace, July 9, Jacksonville, Fla. ■ **David '86 and Kirsten White Gantt**, a son, Benjamin Alexander, August 8, 2002, Greenville. ■ **Bryan '93 and Dena Petty Garner**, a son, Cooper Petty, August 28, 2002, Charleston, S.C. ■ **Ryan and Elizabeth MacIvaine Greene**, a daughter, Mackenzie Coleman, December 31, 2002, Waukesha, Wis. ■ **Craig and Lori Hoffman**, a son, Matthew Philip, May 24, New York, N.Y. Craig works for Taylor-Reid Securities. ■ **Michael and Melanie Morgan Roadruck**, a son, Joseph Michael, September 5, Fort Worth, Texas. Melanie is customer satisfaction program manager in the Dallas Sales Center of IBM. ■ **Jonathan and Windsore Tollison Warthin**, a daughter, Lydia Elizabeth, April 10. ■ **David and Tracy**

Williamson, a daughter, Riley Hannah, March 11, 2003, Charlotte, N.C. ■ **Michael and Michelle Parks Wyatt**, a son, Simon Dantzler, April 16.

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Next reunion in 2007

Timothy Brown was named the 2003 Beaufort (S.C.) High School Teacher of the Year. He has also won a Fulbright Memorial Fund fellowship to travel to Japan. ■ **Keely Burrell** is a law student at the University of South Carolina. ■ **Stephen Hall** of Bainbridge Island, Wash., is employed with Vulcan, Inc. ■ **Carolyn LaMontagne-Hefko** is in a Master of Library Science program at the University of Illinois in Champaign and is working in the school's education and social science library. She has written a young adult novel and is currently working on a children's novel. ■ **Marty Weems** of Blountville, Tenn., is a representative for Novartis Pharmaceutica, selling hypertension and diabetes medications. ■ **Andrew Zorovich** of Belleair, Fla., is a tax and financial planning consultant with Pinnacle Taxx Advisors. ■ **MARRIAGE:** **Blair Carlson** and Heather LaLone, May 4. They live in South Lake Tahoe, Calif. ■ **BIRTHS:** **Brent '93 and Kimberly Ruggles Shealy**, a daughter, Elizabeth Ruggles Shealy, July 8. Brent has completed his fellowship in nephrology and works with Columbia (S.C.) Nephrology Associates. ■ **Louis and Leslie Gillespie** '93 **Spence**, a son, Cameron James, September 17, 2002.

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Next reunion in 2008

Scott and Sandy Altizer live in Knoxville, Tenn., where he is director of high school relations for the University of Tennessee football program. ■ **Graham Dickerson** is a family doctor with Mary Black Physicians Group in Chesnee, S.C. ■ **Emily Jarrell** is a freelance musician in the Charlotte, N.C., area and works

Urban League honors Shis

Furman president David Shi '73 and his wife, Susan Thomson Shi '71, have received the 2003 Whitney M. Young, Jr., Humanitarian Award from the Urban League of the Upstate for their humanitarian efforts and contributions to the Greenville community.

Both Shis have been active in local causes since 1993, when they moved to Greenville. In praising their selection, *The Greenville News* emphasized "their extraordinary contribution to the Greenville community that is manifested in numerous ways." The *News* pointed to David Shi's involvement in a wide variety of local and state efforts "connected with improving this area and making it a better place to live, learn and work." Susan Shi was described as "a tireless volunteer,

particularly for causes related to education and early childhood development."

The award, presented November 13, is named for the educator, author and civil rights leader who directed the National Urban League from 1961 until his death in 1971. John E. Johns, president emeritus of Furman, received the Young award in 2001.

In addition, both Shis were named to the list of Greenville's "Top 25 Leaders" in a poll conducted by *The Greenville News*. More than 700 community leaders were asked by the *News* to help select individuals who have exercised influence on matters of public interest, including issues ranging from politics, business and government to education, religion and the arts.

with Opera Carolina as accompanist and coach. ■ **Susan Kutzner** has been hired as quality assurance manager by Vigilix LLC, a software development company in Greenville. ■ **Amber Singleton** of Monroe, Ga., works for the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation as director of McDaniel-Tichenor House, a historic house museum just outside of Atlanta. ■ After completing a residency in general surgery at the Medical College of Ohio, **Chadwick Thomas** has joined Upstate Surgical Associates in Greer, S.C. He serves as assistant medical director of surgery and is on the teaching faculty for the general surgical residency in the Greenville Hospital System. ■ **Stephanie Compton Turner** is a physician with the Greenwood (S.C.) Eye Clinic. ■ **BIRTHS:** **Chris** and **Heather Cadenhead**, a daughter, Ashlyn Christine, August 30, 2002. In October Chris became pastor and Heather minister of youth at Greenville's Augusta Road Baptist Church.

■ **Andy and Taryn Wilhoit Davis**, a son, Brennan Patrick, September 16, Columbia, S.C. ■ **Doug and Martha Rivers Davisson**, a daughter, Emma, February 22, 2003. They live in Williston, S.C., and Martha is an attorney. ■ **George and Corinne Crosby Edwards**, a daughter, Barbara. They live in Hixson, Tenn. ■ **Joseph and Tiffany Jo Freese**, a son, Daniel Joseph, November 5, 2002. Tiffany is a veterinarian in Abbeville, S.C. ■ **Lane and Tracy Doster Jones**, a daughter, Piper Madelyn, September 3. ■ **Robert III '94 and Bethany Keith Marshall**, a son, Wyatt Keith, May 6, Lawton, Okla. Robert is in the U.S. Army and is currently teaching in a field artillery school. ■ **Daniel and Regina Meetze**, a son, Greyson Boyd, September 12. ■ **Brian and Laura Miller Mitchell**, a son, Caleb Andrew, February 27, 2003, Burlington, N.C. ■ **Christopher and HaeKyong Nelson**, a son, Christopher Jacob, August 7, 2002, Simpsonville, S.C. Christopher is

a physician with Laurens (S.C.) Family Practice. ■ **Scott and Heather Nelson**, a son, Elliott Scott, October 7, Greenville. Scott is a pastor at Grace Church. ■ **Thomas and Beth Turrentine Nuckolls**, a daughter, Avery Turrentine Nuckolls, October 2, 2002, Greenville. ■ **Roger and Marcy Caler Sternitzke**, a daughter, Amanda Gayle, September 15. ■ **Hunter and Heather Stevenson**, a son, Joseph Stone, October 22, 2002. ■ **William Douglas, Sr., and Dorothy Kennedy Tesnear**, a son, William Douglas, Jr., April 30, Greenville. Dorothy is administrative assistant to the vice president of sales at Michelin North America.

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This year is reunion!

Samantha Goody Bailes of South Riding, Va., teaches eighth-grade physical science in the Loudoun County Public School system.

■ **Jennie Brown** has joined the Blackburn & McCune law firm in Nashville, Tenn., as an

accountant. ■ **Malcolm Cook** is an account manager with Interlink Communications Systems in Clearwater, Fla. He sells wide area networking and Internet service equipment.

■ **John Denning II** of Ridgeland, Miss., is completing a psychology internship at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and is scheduled to graduate from Louisiana State University this spring with a Ph.D. in clinical psychology (neuro-psychology). ■ **Denise Ransom Grabowski** has joined Lott & Barber Architects in Savannah, Ga., to provide planning and sustainable development services. She was recently appointed to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Advisory Council.

■ **Allison Jeffrey Hanauer** is a clinical psychologist with the U.S. Air Force and is stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska.

■ **Mary Heather Yost Harvey** of Marietta, Ga., is employed by Cardinal Health & Hospital Supply. ■ **Kimberly Currier McAdams** of Gilbert, Ariz., is director of learning and development in the Greatwest Division of the American Cancer Society.

■ **Kevin McCord** began work in September as an international specialty casualty underwriter with Liberty International Underwriters in New York. ■ **Cindy Merrill** of Parker, Colo., is a systems analyst with the Perot Systems Corporation. ■ **Wayne Pendle** has become

associate pastor at Reeves Creek Baptist Church in Snellville, Ga.

■ **Anne Neil Chalker Piccone** of Oldsmar, Fla., became a sales representative for Bayer Pharmaceuticals in November. ■

MARRIAGES: **Stephen Feyl** and **Sarah Burns**, October 26. They live in Cold Spring, N.Y., and Steven is head of research and information services for the Westchester campus of Pace University. ■ **George Isaacs** and **Lisal Barnes**, May 31. They live in Winston-Salem, N.C.

He is completing a general surgery residency at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and she

is practicing pediatric dentistry in a Medicaid dental clinic.

■ **Steve Murray** and Celeste Moser, August 17, 2002. They live in Memphis, Tenn. ■ **Benji Sadler** and Jessica Albert, April 26. They live in Beaufort, S.C., where he practices law. He has also been commissioned a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General Corps. ■ **Bryan Peter Stevens** and Kimberly Rena Hilyer, October 4. Both work in Greenville, she as a physical therapist at Accelerated Physical Therapy and he as a contractor at Milestone Style Renovations. ■

BIRTHS: **Stephen** and **Helen Arnold**, a daughter, Alice Kathleen, August 28, Knoxville, Tenn. ■ **Mark** and **Amy Bearden** '95 **Clary**, a son, Joseph Bearden Clary, September 26, Greenville. ■ **Jim** and **Lara Cotey**, a daughter, Lillian Elisabeth, October 15, Murfreesboro, Tenn. ■ **Todd** and **Jenn Overcast Lane**, a daughter, Charlotte Abigail, August 1, Stone Mountain, Ga. ■ **David** and **Sarah Altemose Lourie**, a daughter, Rebecca Barbara, December 16, 2002, Los Olivos, Calif. ■ **Claude** and **Jewel Giesy McRoberts**, a son, Noah Daniel, February 5, 2003. They live in Indianapolis, Ind., where Claude is an officer recruiter for the U.S. Navy. Jewel stepped down in 2002 from coaching volleyball at the College of Charleston (S.C.), finishing her career with two consecutive Southern Conference championships and a trip to the NCAA tournament. ■ **John** and **Mary Mundy Miller**, a son, Price Balford, October 15, Atlanta. John is a partner/producer with Sterling Risk Advisors. ■ **Blake** and **Jenny King Neeley**, a daughter, Anna Katherine, October 27, Goodlettsville, Tenn. ■ **Anthony** and **Amy Scott Russo**, a daughter, Isabel James, September 24, Okinawa, Japan. ■ **Bill** and **Corrie Byelick Stover**, a daughter, Baylie Barcus, September 12, St. Petersburg, Fla. ■ **Alexander** and **Shannan Hurley Wayne**, a son, Garrett Miller, October 1, Flowery Branch, Ga.

■ **Corey** and **Corry Moorhead White**, a daughter, Ashley Elizabeth, February 12, 2003, New Haven, Conn.

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Next reunion in 2005

Cortney Combs is a Suzuki violin teacher in Davie, Fla. ■ **Tammy Gann** is a mathematics teacher at Wellington (Fla.) Christian School and also works in college ministries with her church. ■ After returning from military service in Afghanistan, **Steve Hunt** accepted a position as an operations research/intelligence analyst with SAIC in Denver, Colo. His wife, **Heather Vande Brake** '96 **Hunt**, ran the Chicago Marathon in October. ■ **Jenifer McLane** is now teaching at Oakbrook Preparatory School in Spartanburg, S.C. ■ **Cynthia Price** of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., is a senior financial analyst with CSX Corporation. ■ **BIRTHS:** **Charles** and **Kathy Culver**, a son, Ty Ellis, August 28, 2002, Johnston, S.C. ■ **Brant** and **Jennifer Zubrod Taylor**, a daughter, Joanna Christine, March 25, 2003, Columbia, S.C. ■ **Billy** and **Eleanor Iurcovich** '96 **Williams**, a son, Alexander Robert, August 15, Smyrna, Ga. Billy is a senior manager at KPMG.

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Next reunion in 2006

J. Alan Alewine received his Ph.D. in mathematics from Vanderbilt University and is an assistant professor of mathematics at McKendree College in Missouri. ■ **Deborah Drew Berry** has been promoted to branch manager of the Regions Bank Meeting Street office in Charleston, S.C. ■ **Bryan Cochran** received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Washington in Seattle and has joined the faculty of the University of Montana in Missoula. ■ **Scott Cooper** recently became Southwest Airlines' new area marketing manager for Baltimore/Washington, Cleveland and

the northern Virginia area, with primary responsibilities for corporate sales, community events and media relations. ■ **Andi McMahan Damewood** is the academic Web services administrator at the University of Tennessee. ■ **Karen Cram Hoar** is a third-grade teacher in Miami, Fla. ■ **Petrise Runnels Miles** teaches chemistry at the Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tenn. ■ **Scott** and **Tamara Engle Powers** live in Douglasville, Ga. Scott is senior account executive for IntegraColor, a visual communications company supporting the Coca-Cola Company. Tamara is employed by Wellstar as supervisor of women's resources for Kennestone and Cobb hospitals. ■ **Julie West Torres** of Fort Worth, Texas, who is pursuing a master's degree in English as a second language at the University of North Texas, was recently awarded the Mary Patchell Memorial Scholarship from the school's Department of English. ■ **Britt Riedl Young** is now a meteorologist and news reporter at KGMB-TV in Honolulu, Hawaii. ■ **BIRTHS:** **Tim** and **Catherine Hinkle Austin**, a son, James Laxson, September 12, Birmingham, Ala. ■ **Ken** and **Jeanne Davis Fullarton**, twins, a son, Thomas Gregory, and a daughter, Olivia Christine, November 2, Mount Airy, Md. Jeanne is a technical recruiter for SAIC. ■ **Fred** and **Melissa Caron** '97 **Grahn**, a daughter, Olivia Audrey, July 15. Fred is the database administrator for McKinney and Silver in Raleigh, N.C., and Melissa has started a catering business. ■ **George** and **Donna-Leigh Eichor Harmon**, a son, Edward, September 26, Simpsonville, S.C. ■ **Brian** and **Jill Fredo Kibler**, a daughter, Andie Lynn, April 9. ■ **Brian** and **Aubrey Lee Knighton**, a daughter, Aurora Vanessa, September 21, Bethlehem, Ga. ■ **George** '98 and **Kristen Nevins Linney**, a son, George Edward IV, October 10. ■ **Robert** and **Kristi Padgett Olterman**, a son, Cameron Daniel, September 17, Marietta,

Ga. Robert has earned the Certified Financial Planner™ designation from Oglethorpe University. ■ **Alex** and **Kim Sloop Powers**, a son, Luke Nelson, May 7. ■ **Brian** and **Erica Curren Schuler**, a daughter, Sydney Lynn, March 27, 2003. Erica, a special education teacher, is pursuing a master's degree for National Board Certification. ■ **Adam** and **Caroline Simpson** '98 **Whaley**, a son, Graham Thomas, September 17. Adam completed his M.B.A. degree at the Goizueta Business School at Emory University last summer and works in the marketing department at ADP in Atlanta.

97

Next reunion in 2007

Having earned a master's degree in accounting, **Allyson Deihl** lives in Jacksonville, Fla., and is a CPA for Blue Cross & Blue Shield. ■ **Conan Felix** has returned from Iraq and is assigned to the 2nd Tank Battalion of the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C. ■ **Roy Kemper** is a senior financial analyst with Bi-Lo in Greenville. ■ **Karen Oberg Yochim** is an attorney with the Gainesville, Fla., firm of Richard M. Knellinger, P.A. Her practice consists of family law, estate planning and probate. ■ **MARRIAGES:** **William Marshall Moorhead** and **Jennifer Caroline Adamson** '99, September 27. Both are employed in Greenville, she as an attorney at Leatherwood Walker Todd and Mann, P.C., and he as district director of South Carolina Public Health Preparedness DHEC. ■ **Dawn Villanueva** and **Brian Levy**, May 3. They live in Roswell, Ga. ■ **BIRTHS:** **Joe** and **Susan Worley Brewer**, a son, Jackson Davis, August 3. They live in Charlotte, N.C. ■ **Shane** and **Brandy Ray Duncan**, a daughter, Jordan Elizabeth, June 10. ■ **Tim** and **Courtney Garner** '98 **Spitz**, a daughter, Lilly, January 27, 2003, Pittsford, N.Y.

98

Next reunion in 2008

Shannon Barber works in Kuwait for Kellogg, Brown and Root (the engineering and construction arm of the Halliburton Company) as a morale, welfare and recreational coordinator for troops stationed in the Middle East. ■ **David Burns** is now an associate at Velocity Sports & Entertainment, LLC, in Wilton, Conn. ■ **Scott Clanton**, an assistant vice president at National Bank of South Carolina in Myrtle Beach, has earned a Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Christina, work in college ministries at Coastal Carolina University. ■ **Alyson Dickson** is studying for her Ph.D. in American religious history

at Vanderbilt University. ■ **Audrey Dodson** is the events and programs coordinator for the Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics and Public Leadership at Furman. ■ **Ross Eldridge** has entered a one-year M.B.A. program at the University of Georgia, at the end of which he will work in the investment banking group of Banc of America Securities. ■ **Ryan Moore** of Rockville, Md., is in a pediatrics residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. ■ **Marisa Manzi Nava** has received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Alabama and is a psychologist with the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice. ■ **Camille Gibson Rabon** of Cullen, Va., is a music teacher at Appomattox Elementary

School and also teaches economics at a community college.

■ MARRIAGES: Grace Dayrit

and Jon Michael Strother, September 27. They live in Charlotte, N.C., where Grace is a quality assurance coordinator for Pinkerton Compliance Services. ■ **Lindsay Rebecca King** and Charles Thomas Hussey, May 31. They live in Birmingham, Ala. Lindsay is employed by Children's Rehabilitation Services as a physical therapist and he by the Southeastern Conference. ■ **Lindsey Jenkins** and John Thompson, September 13. They live in Atlanta, and Lindsey is district advertising manager for *Southern Accents* magazine. ■ **BIRTHS: Derek and Amy Maris '99 Bruff**, a daughter, Sophie Grace, October 4, Cambridge, Mass. ■ **Cordes** and Emily **Ford**, a son,

Nathaniel, January 11, 2003, Charleston, S.C. Cordes is an associate with Buist Moore Smythe McGee, P.A. ■ **Joseph and Kate Augustine Haber**, a son, Caleb James, September 6, Columbia, Md. ■ **Charles and Jennifer Cox Jeter**, a daughter, Ellie, August 28, Huntersville, N.C. ■ **Mitch '99 and Kathryn Pierce Kiser**, a son, Nicholas Paiton, August 3, Brighton, Mich. ■ **Andre and Laura Angel Mann**, a son, Gabriel Judson, October 24. They are business consultants in Central Asia. ■ **Shamgar and Leslie Michele Milner McDowell**, a daughter, Aletheia Ruth, June 23, Fort Hood, Texas. ■ **Chris and Katie Hankinson McGaha**, a son, Joseph Tucker, July 10, Birmingham, Ala. ■ **J.T. and Cathy Milnarcik**, a daughter, Halle Rivers, July 25, Portsmouth, Va. ■ **Michael** and Leslie **Oubre**, a son, Jonah Michael, September 28, Lawrenceville, Ga. Michael is assistant band director at Winder-Barrow High School. He is also secretary/treasurer for the Georgia Music Educators Association District 13 and is coordinating the District Large Group Performance Evaluations. ■ **Anthony and Robin Crenshaw '99 Walsh**, a daughter, Abby, November 21, 2002, Easley, S.C.

99

This year is reunion!

Michelle Bellon received her master's degree in architecture from Clemson University last May. The graduate faculty in the School of Architecture selected her to receive the Harlan McClure Award for the best architectural thesis in graduate study. She is an intern architect with Neil Stevenson Architects in Charleston, S.C. ■ **Allison Digh Bumgardner** of Charlotte, N.C., is an executive assistant at Wachovia Treasury Services. ■ **Julie Flaming** has passed the South Carolina Bar and is an associate in the law firm of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, L.L.P., in Columbia. She is practicing in the area of pharmaceutical and medical device litigation.

Bell named Mitchell Scholar

Monica Bell '03 is one of 12 students nationwide to be named a George J. Mitchell Scholar for the 2004-05 academic year. The award supports a year of graduate study in Northern Ireland and Ireland.

The Mitchell Scholars program honors outstanding young Americans who exhibit academic excellence, leadership and community service. The scholarship, administered by the U.S.-Ireland Alliance, a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., is named in honor of Mitchell, a former U.S. Senator from Maine who played a leading role in the Northern Ireland peace process. Each Mitchell Scholar receives a travel stipend, housing and tuition.

Bell, a native of Anderson, S.C., majored in political science and sociology at Furman. Active in the Association of Furman Students, College Democrats, Furman University Student Activities Board and Student



League for Black Culture, she was a Harry S. Truman Scholar and received the American Legion Medal. In addition, she worked as an intern at the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department.

Currently office manager of the South Carolina Democratic Party in Columbia, she plans to pursue a degree in equality studies at University College in Dublin. She is the third

Furman graduate in four years to receive the Mitchell award, joining Jenny Lambert '01 and Hal Frampton '02.

The Mitchell Scholarship program is one of the most competitive fellowship programs in the United States. This year's competition had 245 applicants from 166 colleges and universities. Other recipients represented such institutions as Indiana, Northwestern, Princeton, Stanford and Virginia.

■ **Stephanie Cole Long** is a librarian in the Rutherford County (N.C.) Library. ■ **Tyler Milliken**, an intern in the social studies department at Greenwich (Conn.) High School, has been accepted to the Master of Arts, Secondary Education and CT Certification program at Fairfield University. ■

MARRIAGES: Courtney Armstrong and Jim Buxton, June 21. They reside in Atlanta where they are attorneys. ■ **Tricia Casto** and Michael Fuller, October 11. They live in Cullman, Ala., where both practice law. ■ **Illana Fisher**

and Jason Burkhart, August 31, 2002. They live in Aiken, S.C. Illana is an assistant national coordinator of Wheelin' Sportsmen, an outreach program of the National Wild Turkey Federation that provides people with disabilities an opportunity to enjoy outdoor recreation. ■ **Katherine Anne Fitch** and John Clayton Pennylegion, September 6. They live in Greenville where both work for Campus Outreach.

■ **Erin Paul** and Chris Golden, September 13. They are occupational therapists with Willowbrook Health and Home in Nashville, Tenn., working with the developmentally delayed. Erin received her clinical doctorate in December. ■ **Stacy Schorr** and Geoffrey Chandler, October 10. Stacy is a copy editor/page designer for the newspaper *Stars and Stripes* in Arlington, Va. ■ **BIRTHS:**

Michael '00 and **Stacy Rowell Owings**, a son, Alex, October 20. Stacy recently passed the South Carolina Bar and is employed by the Strom Law Firm in Columbia, S.C. ■ **Jeremy** and **Sarah Beavers Price**, a son, Nathan Jeremy, August 7, St. Petersburg, Fla. ■ **Mark** and **Kristi Hultstrand Reed**, a son, Walker, May 29, St. Simons Island, Ga. ■ **Jeff** and **Alicia Leerssen Stark**, a son, William Jeffrey, February 21, 2003, Tyrone, Ga.

00

Next reunion in 2005

Russ Boyd was scheduled to receive his Master of Divinity degree in December from Brite Divinity School of Texas Christian University. He has been approved for ordination by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). ■ **Cecilia Carro** of Annandale, Va., has started graduate school at Georgetown University. ■ **David Cole** completed his studies at Samford University and has been called to Hardwick Baptist Church in Milledgeville, Ga., as minister of music. ■ **Stephanie Gaston** graduated from Campbell University School of Law last May, passed the North Carolina Bar and works as an attorney with Cranfill, Sumner & Hartzog, L.L.P., in Raleigh. ■ **Ali Kraigsley** of Sherman Oaks, Calif., earned her master's degree in aerospace engineering and is now a research assistant at the University of Southern California. ■ **Paul** '01 and **Mary Robertson McKie** live in Hanover, N.H. Mary completed her M.S. degree in international agriculture at Cornell University and Paul is a student at Dartmouth Medical School.

■ **Ashley Clark Ransom** is scheduled to graduate from Wheaton College in May with a master's degree in teaching English as a second language/intercultural communication. ■ **Yolanda Schillinger** has graduated from law school and is an associate in the New York City law firm of Holland & Knight, LLP. ■ **Jackie Smith** is an assistant coach for the women's basketball team at Bucknell University. ■ **Elizabeth Lightner Winter** completed her master's degree in library and information studies at Florida State University last August.

■ **Graham Wright** is employed by Cambridge Healthtech Institute in Boston, Mass., as conference director. He is also acting and singing in the Boston area. ■ **MARRIAGES: Jeremy Cass** and **Anna Lang**,

November 23, 2002. Jeremy is an instructor of Hispanic studies at the University of Kentucky in Lexington and is finishing a Ph.D. in Hispanic/Caribbean studies. Anna is finishing her Master of Public Health degree in epidemiology.

■ **Travis Filar** and **Natalie Muro** '02, August 9, Birmingham, Ala. They live in Lexington, Ky., where Natalie is in physical therapy school at the University of Kentucky. Travis teaches lower school physical education and coaches basketball at Trinity Christian Academy. He is also a volunteer assistant volleyball coach at the University of Kentucky. ■ **Adair Holliday** and **David Dobrowski**, August 30. They live in Apex, N.C.

■ **Whitney Jackson** and Evan Howell, October 18. They live in Washington, D.C., where Whitney is a staff writer and reporter for the flagship newsletter of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

■ **Peter King** and Shana Byers, June 7. They live in Alexandria, Va. Peter is in his third year at George Mason School of Law and Shana teaches at Mount Vernon High School. ■

Kimberly Kinoshita and **Ranjit** (Sid) **Avinash Khanolkar**, October 4. Kimberly is a sales assistant with Smith Barney in Atlanta and Sid is an associate and portfolio manager with SunTrust Banks. ■ **Jonathan James Looney** (M.A.) and **Michelle Angela Montoney**, October 11. Michelle is a student at the University of South Carolina, and Jonathan is an administrative resident at Newberry County (S.C.) Memorial Hospital. ■ **June Mee** and **T.J. Clark**, November 1. June teaches at the University of Alabama-Birmingham and T.J. works at Countrywide Home Loans. ■ **Andy Platt** and **Melissa Rosenbaum**, July 19. They live in Brentwood, Tenn. Andy works in the business office at Legends Club of Tennessee and Melissa teaches third grade at Christ Presbyterian Academy.

Class notes policy

Because of the large number of submissions and clippings Furman receives for the magazine's class notes section and the time needed to review, compile and edit so much information, news items frequently are not published until five or six months after they are submitted.

Furman magazine does not publish dated items (anything more than 18 months old at time of publication) or engagement announcements. Birth and marriage announcements for alumni couples who graduated in different years are included under the earliest graduation date (except if requested otherwise); they are not listed under both classes. We ask that you include your spouse's or child's name and the date and city where the birth or marriage occurred.

You can send news to Marketing and Public Relations, Furman University, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, S.C. 29613, or e-mail alumni@furman.edu. FAX: (864) 294-3023. Selected items submitted to the on-line registry at <http://alumni.furman.edu> are included in class notes.

■ **Amy Slocum** and **John Edward Goode, Jr.**, October 25, Snellville, Ga. ■ **Kaitlin Summerville** and **Doug Duschene**, September 1. They live in Belgrade, Mont. ■ **James Edwin Williams III** and **Kimberly Lynn Feindt** '01, July 19. They live in Decatur, Ga. James is a chorus teacher at South Gwinnett High School and Kim is an evaluation associate with Communities

CLASS NOTES WINTER 04, cont.

in Schools. ■ **BIRTH:** **Bubba** and Cortney Locke **Smith**, a daughter, Mary Brittain, August 5, Hampden-Sydney, Va.

01

Next reunion in 2006

Reico Barber is pursuing an M.D. degree in adolescent counseling at the Medical University of South Carolina. He lives in Rock Hill, S.C., and works as a clinical residential counselor and a court-appointed parole officer. ■ **Gabrielle Ferguson Cannick**, a third-year dual doctoral student in the Dental Medicine Scientist Training Program at the Medical University of South Carolina, received the top prize for her presentation on "Oral Cancer Knowledge Among South Carolina Dental Students" at the Hinman Student Research Symposium. She also received a travel award to the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting in Atlanta and the President's Award for Excellence in Dental Research from the National Student Research Group of the

American Association of Dental Research. She is currently conducting research at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research of the National Institutes of Health. ■ **Abbey Redfearn Haddock** of Lugoff, S.C., works in sales with Redfearn Motor Company. ■ **Erik '02** and **Chelsea Berry Iliff** have been assigned to Giessen, Germany, by the U.S. Army. Chelsea recently completed her master's degree in mass communication. ■ **Heather Lundell** is studying for her doctorate in occupational therapy at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. ■ **James Moeckel** is in the import/export business in Florianopolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil. ■ **Corrine O'Neill** is a student at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., pursuing a master's degree in social work with a concentration in social and economic development. ■ **Jennifer Scholz** has completed her master's degree in clinical psychology and is a psychometrist at the Marcus Institute in Atlanta. ■

MARRIAGES: **T.K. Broecker** and **Shari Zoffmann**, September 20. They live in Taylors, S.C. ■ **Amy Cushing** and **Phillip Berry '02**, August 30. They live in Grayson, Ga., and work with Gwinnett Outreach. ■ **Emily Eades** and **Brian Johnson** (M.A. '00), August 2, Charleston, S.C. Emily earned a master's degree in health administration and is completing an administrative residency at the Medical University of South Carolina. Brian teaches elementary school and coaches cross country and track at The Citadel. ■ **Megan Leigh Palmer** and **Morgan DeWitt** Camp, June 7. They live in Roanoke, Va., where she is a child and adolescent mental health therapist at Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare and he is a transitional medicine resident at Carilion Health System. ■ **Emily Wilson** and **Andreas Lawrenz**, July 26. They live in Munich, Germany, where Emily, who earned a master's degree in violin performance from Boston University's College of Fine Arts, teaches violin, piano and English.

02

Next reunion in 2007

Chris Bainbridge is pursuing a master's degree in journalism at the University of Nebraska. ■ **Laura Garrett** lives in Tuxedo, N.C., and is the associate director of conservation and ecology at Camp Glen Arden, a summer camp for girls. ■ **MARRIAGES:** **Sarah Cornelius** and **Brian Hahne**, August 2. They live in Winston-Salem, N.C., where Brian is an area coordinator for residence life at the North Carolina School of the Arts. ■ **Sara Ingram** and **Brad Cain**, July 12. They live in Maitland, Fla., and Sara is office coordinator at The Geneva School. ■ **Ryan Koon** and **Megan Prewitt**, July 19. They live in Mount Pleasant, S.C. Megan is completing a master's degree in English and works as a substitute teacher. Ryan teaches biology at Charleston Collegiate School. ■ **Katrina McClanahan** and **Justin Barrett '03**, September 27. They live in Wilmington, Del., and Katrina is an investment analyst with

Front man

Alumnus makes Newsweek cover

When Ron Singleton '83 answered an e-mail from the United Methodist Church national office asking for comments about the threats and effects of litigation on the ministerial profession, he never thought he'd wind up in the midst of "Lawsuit Hell."

But that was the headline on the front of the December 15 issue of *Newsweek*, referring to an article about society's increasingly litigious nature and how concern about being sued, even at the slightest perceived offense, is affecting various professions. And there, on the cover, stood Furman alumnus Singleton, minister at Inman (S.C.) United Methodist Church, alongside a physician from Brooklyn and a law enforcement officer from Maine.

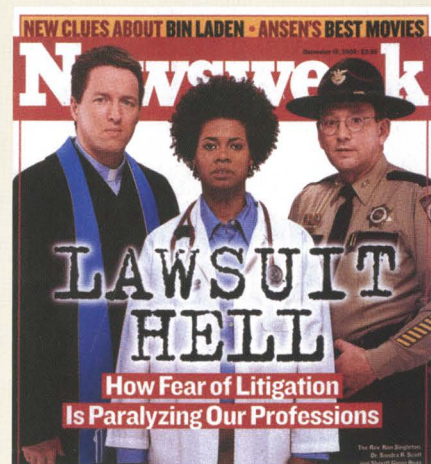
Singleton, who has never been sued or known anyone who has been, says that his response to the UMC query pointed out how, as part of their training, ministers and

prospective ministers are "made aware that you have to be careful about putting yourself in a vulnerable position and that there are general rules you need to follow."

The UMC passed his thoughts on to the magazine, and soon a reporter called to follow up with a telephone interview — and to ask if *Newsweek* could send a photographer to Inman to take a picture. The story opened with Singleton discussing the precautions he takes, alongside a large photo of him in his church's attractive sanctuary. (To read the story, visit the Web at msnbc.msn.com/id/3660738.)

Then came another call: Could he travel to New York for a cover shoot? Well, sure, he said, and wound up spending a day posing in a New York studio.

Singleton does point out that luck played a role in his 15 minutes of fame. Had the magazine been scheduled for



printing a few days later, he wouldn't have been a cover boy at all: "We were told that we would be on the cover — unless they found Saddam Hussein."

The date of Hussein's capture: December 13.

— Jim Stewart

Lincoln Financial Group. ■ **Lauren White** and Matt Steele, September 20. Lauren has left WYFF-TV in Greenville to be an associate producer with the station's parent company, Hearst-Argyle Television, in Washington, D.C.

03

Next reunion in 2008

Adam Baslow has taken a job in land development with Special Properties Inc. in Charleston, S.C. ■ **Erin Bourne** of Greenville has become a sales and marketing associate for Ryan Homes.

■ **Jessica Currier** of Alexandria, Va., is a program analyst with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. ■ **Philip Hinton**

recently completed Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Fla., and was commissioned as a naval officer. ■ **Noah Huffman**

is enrolled in the graduate program in history at the University of Louisville. ■ **Eugene Sibal** has been serving as a medical platoon leader with the 3-325 Airborne Infantry Regiment of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, based in Iraq. ■

LeBryan Sperling is working in Atlanta as a researcher with the Emory University sociology department on a project that deals with substance abuse among young people. ■

MARRIAGES: Lorna-Megan Elizabeth Bass and Cavett Robert Cooper, July 26. She is pursuing a master's degree in education at Furman and he is employed at Leadership Center East in Greenville. ■ **Jonathan William Caskey** and **Kelley Elizabeth Fitzgerald**, June 28. Both work in Spartanburg, S.C., Kelley as a teacher at Fairforest Elementary School and Jonathan as public affairs assistant with the Southern Conference.

DEATHS

Marian Wrigley Dashiell '32, November 22, Spartanburg, S.C. She was an ardent conservationist and a member-at-large of The Garden Club of America.

Jerome Warren '32, November 5, Orangeburg, S.C. He taught math and science in Lexington County (S.C.) Schools and was a district manager with Field Enterprises Educational Corporation. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and was a Mason.

Emily Orr Black '33, October 23, Greenville. Active in civic affairs, she was Miss Greenville of 1933.

Elizabeth Gary Wells Bynum '36, November 2, Columbia, S.C. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and served as a docent at both the Columbia Historic Houses and the South Carolina State Museum.

Josephine Loadholt Green '36, September 14, Estill, S.C.

Sue Owings Harvey '36, September 17, Greenville. She was a supervisor with the Department of Social Services.

Frances Schaefer Norris '36, November 18, Greenville.

Gertrude Rollins Gaines '37, September 26, Inman, S.C. She taught school for 36 years in both North Carolina and South Carolina. She was a former member of the National Teachers Association, State Teachers Association and Retired Teachers Association of Spartanburg County, S.C.

Leonard C. Boykin, Jr. '39, September 12, Bishopville, S.C. He taught school, served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was general counsel for Ford Motor Company after graduating from the University of Notre Dame School of Law.

Beatrice Rimmer Fleckenstein '40, November 10, West Valley, N.Y. She taught in Springville, N.Y., for 17 years.

Robert Neil Lacey '40, October 27, Dallas, Ga. After serving with the U.S. Army Air Corps Weather Service during World War II, he had a career as

a meteorologist and retired from the National Weather Service in Atlanta.

Eleanor Neely Booker '41, September 9, Anderson, S.C. She was a retired teacher and librarian.

Erma Riggins Looper '41, October 25, Greenville. She was active in performing and teaching piano and was a member of the Crescent Music Club and the Greenville Music Teachers Association.

Charles Allen Griffith '42, November 22, Simpsonville. He was a retired Baptist minister, having pastored churches in Indiana, Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia. After retirement he became interested in genealogical and historical research and authored two books.

Miriam Whitaker Burgess '43, September 18, Belle Glade, Fla. She began her longtime career in education as a chemistry and math teacher in South Carolina and later taught math in Florida. She became headmistress of Glades Day School in 1967 and retired in 1978. She served as vice president of the Florida Council of Independent Schools for nine years, was an active member of its evaluation committee and traveled throughout Florida assisting in evaluating other independent schools. She was also an accomplished china painting artist for more than 50 years.

Mary Susan DeLoache '43, September 19, Greenwood, S.C. She was employed with Saluda County Department of Social Services and also worked with Connie Maxwell Children's Home in Greenwood before retiring from the South Carolina Children's Bureau.

W. Lloyd Hellams, Sr. '43, September 13, Columbia, S.C. For most of his career, he served as pastor of Southside Baptist Church and as interim pastor of Eau Claire Baptist Church. He

served on the faculty at Baptist Hospital School of Nursing and on the board of trustees at North Greenville Junior College, Baptist College (now Charleston Southern University) and Furman. He also served as an officer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention and was a Mason.

Lois Grace Johnson Hughes '45, November 22, Greer, S.C. She taught for 25 years in the Greenville County School District.

Dorothy Slaughter Osborne '46, September 16, Union, S.C. She worked with her husband in the management and operations of radio station WBCU. She was active in the South Carolina Broadcasters' Association and in many organizations involving conservation and educational pursuits. She was a former board member of the Union County Mental Health Association and was associated with Friends of Union County Carnegie Library.

Miriam Westmoreland Anderson Putnam '46, October 7, Greenville. She was employed in the agricultural and textile laboratories at Clemson University, Table Rock Laboratories, Greenville County Schools, Clemson University Extension Services and J.B. White Department Store. She served on the board of directors of Grady Hipp Nursing Center and was a member and president of the American Association of University Women.

Thelma Rose Turner Thomason '46, September 9, Simpsonville, S.C. She retired from the Greenville County School System after a 35-year teaching career.

Charles L. Anderson '49, October 25, Decatur, Ga. He was an Army veteran of World War II and had retired as office manager of National Gypsum Co.

Marian Bates Barker '49, October 31, Rochester, N.Y.

CLASS NOTES WINTER 04, cont.

Paul O. Batson, Jr. '49, September 18, Marion, S.C. An Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, he served in three theatres of war and received the Bronze Star and other decorations for actions in Burma. He was pastor of Little Rock and Fair Bluff Baptist churches before going to Marion Baptist Church, where he served from 1957 until his retirement in 1985. He was a trustee at South Carolina Baptist Hospital for 29 years, was moderator for the Marion Baptist Association and was a trustee at Midwestern Baptist Seminary for 12 years, serving as chair the last two years of his tenure. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by Furman in 1981.

Cecil Hartzog Beard '49, November 18, Murrells Inlet, S.C. He was an ordained Baptist minister and pastored a number of churches in the two Carolinas. He was a member of Waccamaw Association Pastor's Conference and served on the General Board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention and the founding board of Baptist College (now Charleston Southern University), from which he holds an honorary degree. He also served on the boards of Connie Maxwell Children's Home and South Strand Helping Hand and was moderator for the Waccamaw, Williamsburg and Southeast Baptist associations.

John Frank Ingram, Jr. '49, November 7, Darlington, S.C. An Army veteran, he taught high school English for many years in Darlington and Hartsville, S.C.

Doris Cabler Turner '49, October 17, Travelers Rest, S.C. She was a retired teacher with the Greenville County School System.

Robert Gregg Willimon '49, September 24, Atlanta. He spent the majority of his working life as a writer for Georgia newspapers, including *The Atlanta Constitution*. He was a musician and served in World War II.

James Wharton Breazeale '50, November 11, Mount Pleasant, S.C. He was an account executive in the freight industry and was a commissioner for the Sanitation Department of Greenville County for 13 years. He was an Army veteran of World War II and was a licensed fishing guide.

Robert James Bringman, Sr. '50, September 9, Orangeburg, S.C. He was a pastor at various churches in South Carolina and Georgia and was in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He was active with the Boy Scouts of America and received the Silver Beaver Award.

Robert Hoyt Lampley '50, October 31, Hendersonville, N.C. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II, after which he worked with the family business, Lampley Motor Co. in Hendersonville. He was later employed by Royal Typewriter Co. in Atlanta, then transferred to Rockville, Md., as the company's director of international marketing. In 1969 he became district manager in Norfolk, Va. After leaving Royal he founded Chesapeake Office Supply, which he managed until his retirement.

Elaine Scaife Jones Rodgers '53, September 15, Prineville, Ore. She worked for the late Strom Thurmond when he was governor of South Carolina and later transferred to the South Carolina Tax Commission. She served as an auditor until her retirement after more than 30 years of service.

Douglas Neil Baker '54, September 4, Greenville. He pastored a number of churches in South Carolina before spending his final 30 years at Berea First Baptist Church. He served as president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention in 1989 and was a trustee at Greenville Technical College, Anderson College and Charleston Southern University. He was awarded honorary doctoral degrees by

Furman and Charleston Southern. For 18 years he served as volunteer chaplain of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office and for five years as a volunteer chaplain for SLED. He was recognized as the South Carolina Alumni of the Year by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1992 and as Citizen of the Year by the Berea Lions Club in 2003.

Mary Elizabeth Owen Gaddy '54, November 12, Asheville, N.C. She had taught school in Hartsville, S.C. She was a volunteer at the Rathbun Center and was a member of the Home and Garden Club of Asheville, the Salvation Army Auxiliary and the Western North Carolina Rescue Mission.

Joe Dan Sparks '54, September 30, Anniston, Ala. He had a long career with the Department of Labor and was an administrative law judge with OSHA in Atlanta before his retirement in 1989.

John A. Ramey, Jr. '56, November 16, Columbia, S.C. After six years in the U.S. Air Force as a payload master, he was a special agent with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms for 27 years. He received the Treasury Agent of the Year Award in 1974 and retired in 1980.

Thomas S. Turner '56, September 15, Spartanburg, S.C. He was an Army veteran and a Southern Baptist minister who served as pastor of a number of churches in South Carolina and Georgia.

James Thomas Kerns '57, November 6, Greenville. He was part of the Army of Occupation in Japan during World War II and also served in the Korean War, receiving the Bronze Star for heroism and four Purple Hearts. He went on to be transportation sales manager with Arkansas Best Freight Co. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Disabled American

Veterans, Hejaz Shrine and the Masons. He was also a member of the Limestone College Saints Clubs and was a volunteer for the Veterans Administration pharmaceutical program.

Ellen Gray Chapman '65, October 8, Myrtle Beach, S.C. She was president and owner of Genco, Inc., and worked for the Chamber of Commerce for a number of years as research and film office manager. She was a graduate of Leadership Grand Strand, was a volunteer with the American Cancer Society and served on the board of Community Volunteer Services.

Kenneth Walker Jones '65, September 5, Greenville. He was a former member of the Greenville Kennel Club and the Dog Obedience Club.

Boyd N. Lockaby, Jr. '67, October 20, Springboro, Ohio.

Larry Daniel McDonald '67, September 26, Greenville. He worked at the public defender's office in Richland County, S.C., and later practiced law in Beaufort, S.C., and Greenville. He was a member of the South Carolina Bar Association and the Greenville County Bar Association.

William C. Gray, Jr. '70, October 21, Atlanta. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was deputy commissioner of the Department of Parks and Recreation for the city of Atlanta, for which he worked for 24 years.

Dave H. Smith '85, September 14, Big Sky, Mont. A carpenter, he was a partner in Archer Smith Construction in Atlanta and worked for Stoner Construction in Big Sky before starting his own company, DHS Construction. While living in Atlanta, he played rugby for the Atlanta Renegades and was selected for the Georgia Select Side and the Eastern Regional Union Select Side.

Faith and the law

Whitlow's novels tackle ethical issues

What does a novelist do when *Publishers Weekly* dubs him the “John Grisham of the Christian (fiction) market”?

Praise the Lord, and keep writing.

Robert Whitlow, a Charlotte, N.C., lawyer and 1976 Furman graduate, is at work on his fifth Christian legal thriller. His last, *Life Support*, has sold more than 35,000 copies since coming out in July.

That's hardly a Grisham-level number, but most novelists would like to have it. Whitlow has impressed Christian fiction insiders, including Jana Riess, religion book review editor at *Publishers Weekly*.

“I read so much Christian fiction, and most of it is lousy,” she says. “To find a novelist like Robert Whitlow who knows how to tell a good story and who improves with each outing — that's a real joy.”

Christian fiction is a rapidly growing force in religious book publishing, Riess says. The biggest name is Tim LaHaye, co-author of the blockbuster “Left Behind” series, but the list includes other successful authors — among them Gary Parker, an Atlanta minister who is also a member of Furman's Class of '76.

The story of how Whitlow came to write Christian legal thrillers has twists and turns.

He grew up in Georgia, his love of reading kindled by his older sister Annette, a future librarian who passed on *Look Homeward, Angel* and other books. When he got to Furman he planned to major in business, but changed directions after a conversation with English professor James Stewart.

“I'm eternally grateful to him,” Whitlow says. “He told me, ‘Don't worry yet about what you're going to do for a living. You're at a liberal arts school. Take advantage of what we have here in the liberal arts.’”

Whitlow majored in history, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. Then he went to the University of Georgia law school, where he made law review.

Between college and law school, he worked at a camp for emotionally disturbed children. The stress caused him to pray seriously for the first time. Whitlow credits prayer, along with reading C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*, for his move from casual to devout Christian.

Near the end of law school, Whitlow felt God telling him not to accept a job

offer from a big Atlanta firm. Instead he joined a small firm in Dalton, Ga., representing injured carpet mill workers in civil cases.

During 17 years in Dalton, Whitlow built a lucrative practice. He married Kathy McClure, and they had four children.

In 1994, his wife dreamed that the family was moving to Charlotte. A year later, she had another Charlotte dream in which she saw the house they were living in. She told a friend, who said her brother owned a house just like that. In Charlotte. And it was for sale.

The Whitlows decided God wanted them, for reasons they didn't understand, to be in Charlotte. They bought the house in question.

The family moved in 1996, but Whitlow continued to practice in Dalton, driving to Charlotte on weekends. He recalls waking up one morning with the idea that few people appreciate the influence their forebears have on them, for good and bad.

As he drove to Charlotte that day, he thought of a story to illustrate the point: A young Southern lawyer learns, on the death of his father, that he has inherited membership in a secret society dating to the fall of the Confederacy. The bequest has social and financial advantages but becomes a curse from which only a turning to God can save him.

When he got to Charlotte, he told Kathy the story. She insisted he write it. So Whitlow began his first novel, *The List*.

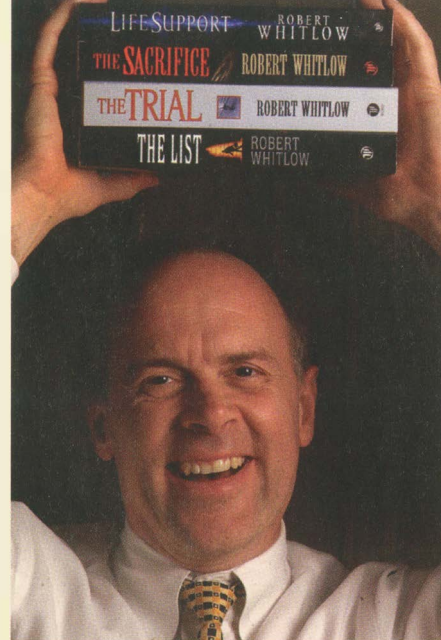
“I turned on the computer and typed ‘Chapter One.’ I didn't know what to do. I just had this thing in my head.”

Whitlow soon closed his Georgia practice and moved to Charlotte, deciding he could afford to write full time for two years. But he struggled with his novel and eventually set it aside.

In early 1998, he dared look again. “Awful,” he says. “But one chapter was good.”

That was encouragement enough. Whitlow finished *The List* and got the attention of an editor at W Publishing Group, a division of Thomas Nelson Inc. The firm bought the novel and published it in 2000.

The List sold 20,000 copies in six months — impressive for an unknown author. Whitlow followed the next year with *The Trial*, about a small-town Georgia



LAYNE BAILEY/THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Robert Whitlow will soon add a fifth novel to his growing canon.

lawyer who defends a man accused of killing a wealthy college student. *The Trial* won a Christy Award, given by the Christian Booksellers Association for outstanding fiction.

In 2002 came *The Sacrifice*, about a North Carolina lawyer who defends a white teen-ager accused of a hate crime. Whitlow followed with *Life Support*, about a female lawyer who finds both Christ and a boyfriend while representing a troubled young wife who wants to pull the plug on her comatose husband. He's well into a sequel, *Life Everlasting*.

All of Whitlow's novels feature contemporary Southern lawyers grappling with faith and ethics. His overarching theme, he says, is that “God is real and wants to interact with us.”

Now a member of a Charlotte firm, Whitlow says he enjoys legal work but acknowledges that he does it mainly for health insurance and a steady income. Evenings and weekends, he's writing fiction.

Whitlow is unpretentious, volunteering with a laugh that many of the lofty epigraphs he uses at the beginning of his novels' chapters come from spins through “Bartlett's Familiar Quotations.”

But he's serious about what he believes he offers his readers: “I know the law, I know the South and I know the life of faith.”

— Sam Hodges '77

The author is book editor for The Charlotte Observer, where the original version of this story appeared on November 15, 2003. Reprinted with permission.

Information Fluency

Today's undergraduate students have grown up in a world where computers are ubiquitous. Because they are so comfortable with computers, students often have a naive confidence in their ability to find accurate information, whether using an authoritative database or an Internet search engine.

Recently, Child's Play Communications and Insight Research Group, a market research firm, interviewed 500 children ages 8 to 17 regarding the use of technology. The researchers found that 87 percent of the children "considered themselves good at searching for information on-line."

On what basis do these young people rate their competency? Does being able to find a large quantity of information (or *any* information) on a searched topic mean that the search yields good results? What about the wealth of information in materials that are not found on-line, such as books? For many students, if something can't be found on-line, it doesn't exist.

Clearly, there is a need to ensure that students apply critical thinking skills in finding, evaluating and using information.

The American Library Association defines Information Fluency (IF) as "the ability to locate, evaluate and effectively use information." But what is the appropriate level of commitment by our institutions to developing skills in Information Fluency? Should IF instruction be required in every first-year English composition class? Is it important enough to administer systematically throughout the curriculum? Or should it be left to the prerogative of each faculty member, as is the case at most institutions?

During the 2002-03 academic year at Furman, IF concepts and skills were taught in 92 courses in 15 academic departments — a total of 114 sessions. But not all professors take advantage of the university's IF instruction program, and there is no system in place to ensure that each student receives IF instruction. Many faculty, however, are convinced that Information Fluency is essential to academic success. Some even bring their classes to two or more sessions, allowing more time to cover higher-level concepts.

For several years the Associated Colleges of the South (ACS), with generous funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, has provided grants to support investigation of various facets of Information Fluency. Furman has received several of these grants and sent representatives to ACS-sponsored IF conferences.

These opportunities have inspired the Furman library faculty and staff to work with professors and information technology colleagues to integrate Information Fluency into courses. They have also forced us to ask: What level of institutional commitment to IF is appropriate? Isn't Information Fluency too important to be a "hit or miss" endeavor?

This year, the topic of Information Fluency has been included in the university's strategic planning process. While there is shared consensus about IF's importance, decisions about how to implement such a program and how to incorporate best practices from other institutions require additional study and reflection.

The Furman library faculty and staff look forward to helping develop an IF program that equips students to be not just critical thinkers, but savvy users and creators of information. Ideally, we would like to see all Furman students attend a minimum of three formal IF sessions. One would be embedded into a required freshman course; a second would be integrated into a course required for the major; and the third, a capstone session, would be completed before they graduate. Each session would feature the collaborative efforts of professors, information technologists and librarians.

If Information Fluency were woven into the fabric of the curriculum, our graduates would be more sophisticated seekers, consumers and users of information. Whether they move on to graduate school or into the workplace, they will need to have these important skills.

A person who is "information fluent" is prepared for lifelong learning. And isn't this essential to a liberal arts education?

— Janis Bandelin

Director, James B. Duke Library

This article appeared in its original form in the on-line journal Transformations: Liberal Arts in the Digital Age, which can be found at www.colleges.org/transformations. The journal is published by the Associated Colleges of the South, a consortium of 16 leading liberal arts institutions. Reprinted with permission.





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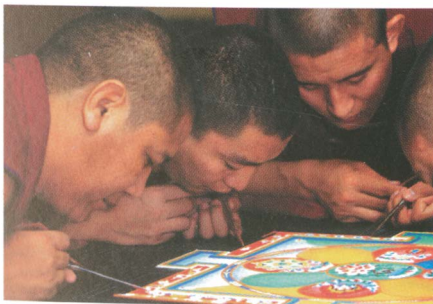
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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